

Hafa Adai!

Seven missing persons found in Chuuk seas. **PAGE 5**
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75¢

Filipino man, 46, missing



MASS WEDDING

Thirteen couples from different parishes on Saipan were married last Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017, during a group wedding at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, D.D., officiated the wedding, during a Mass that was co-celebrated by Fr. Harold Funa, Fr. Phillip Rollon Jr, OAR, and Fr. Jason A. Granado.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Filipino man named Constante Bautista has been reported missing since Tuesday afternoon, making this the first missing person case this year.



Bautista

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jackie Rae described Bautista as 46, a Filipino national, about 5'9" tall, and weighs 220 lbs. He was last seen wearing a red T-shirt, a pair of blue shorts, and a pair of running shoes.

Bautista was last seen at 4pm, on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at his apartment in Garapan.

See **MISSING** on **Page 4**

3 months after Maria, barely half of Puerto Rico has power

By **DANICA COTO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico authorities said Friday that nearly half of power customers in the U.S. territory still lack electricity more than three months after Hurricane Maria, sparking outrage among islanders who accuse the government of mismanaging its response to the Category 4 storm.

Officials said 55 percent of the nearly 1.5 million customers—**See 3 MONTHS on Page 4**



In this Dec. 22, 2017 photo, 75-year-old Joaquin Rivera Calderon gets up early to check out a model of the birth of the baby Jesus on the balcony of his house in Morovis, Puerto Rico. **AP**

'Expect less than 18,000 CW slots'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

According to Alex Sablan, U.S. Congress is "seriously considering" several provisions proposed for the extension of the CW-1 program but the 18,000 ceiling should not be expected.

Sablan, who chairs the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday, that Congress is seriously giving some thought to the corporation's proposal to

extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program past its 2019 deadline, among many others.

He noted, though, that while key members of Congress and ranking White House officials recognize the need for an extension, the 18,000-slot ceiling pursued by the NMBAC with blessings from the Torres administration could not be expected in the extension.



Sablan

"We have all agreed that the extension was one of them. The number of the CW-1 workers was a second one," said Sablan after being asked about the provisions that Congress is

considering. "It was clearly [expressed] that the 18,000 is probably not the number that we are going to get, but we assume it is somewhere between the num-

See EXPECT on Page 4

INSIDE



FOCUS

U.S. mainland companies are seeing a new answer to their struggle to find workers.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Lawmakers are pushing schools to teach students how to tell fact from fiction.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Kardashians 2.0 and their numbers are rising on reality TV.

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Chamber signature fundraiser gets new name

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is making ready for its signature fundraiser, the installation of new officers, which will happen on Jan. 27, 2018.

According to Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski, there will be a change of event title this year.

"We're changing the name from 'installation event' to 'Business Person of the Year gala' in order to re-focus on

the Business Person of the Year nominees and the announcement of the 2017 winner," she said.

She assured though, that the installation of the Chamber's board of directors will remain a very important part of the event.

"We want to start the new year on a positive note, with some fun and friendship and laughter," she added.

Arenovski expects many

prior Business Person of the Year recipients to attend.

"We loved having so many prior [award] recipients in attendance last year, and hope that more past honorees will join us this year," she said.

The nominees for 2017 BPOY will be announced next week.

The Jan. 27 BPOY gala at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will focus on these

nominees, "and what they do for our community so that everyone can get to know them better," she added.

Arenovski said the theme for the evening is "masquerade" and some masks will be available for the attendees to use as props in photo taking. Reservations are available by return email, or by calling the Chamber office at 234-7150. *(Bea Cabrera)*

Anderson is interim US Attorney

The NMI District Court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona swore in Shawn Anderson yesterday as interim U.S. Attorney.

Anderson, who has been doing the job in an acting capacity since March 2017, was appointed yesterday by

the U.S. Attorney General to serve as interim U.S. Attorney to both the NMI and Guam for the next 120 days or until a presidential appointment occurs.

"It's really a privilege to continue on like this and its even more of a privilege to

have the blessing of the attorney general of the United States. Its just pretty amazing," said Anderson.

Manglona is appreciative of the leadership that Anderson has practiced in his time with the NMI District Court.

Anderson was assistant U.S.

attorney during the time of former U.S. Attorney to NMI and Guam Alicia Limtiaco and part-time criminal chief to the NMI District Court.

A federal prosecutor since 2003, Anderson has been on the island for two years now. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

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MARPAC surprises New Year baby with gifts



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Bradley Babauta (KCR sales rep), Chris Nunez (KCPPro sales rep), Elisha Villazon, Elisha's sister-in-law, Michelle Villacrusis (marketing coordinator), Shirley Santos (MJN Sales Rep), and Tom Basa (consumer manager) pose with 2018 New Year Baby Dakota Villazon and his parents.

The MARPAC Consumer Department gifted 2018 New Year baby Dakota Villazon with several baby products—diapers, baby wipes, etc.—in a surprise visit last Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Dakota's parents, Elisha and Jesse Villazon, were appreciative of MARPAC's gesture of providing the compa-

ny's products to their newest bundle of joy.

The products include Huggies diaper, Huggies baby wipes, a Mead Johnson bag, plus Enfamil formula, Kotex, Cottonelle, and Glade products.

Dakota was born last Jan. 1 at 4:49am. He is the Villazon couple's second child after eldest son, Dylan. *(Saipan Tribune)*

LOTTERY



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Jealousy allegedly drove boyfriend to violence

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man allegedly beat up his

girlfriend last Dec. 27 in a fit of jealousy.

Tarell Darnell Murphy, 33, has been charged with domes-

tic violence, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

According to police, three officers responded to the

incident at 5:58am on Dec. 27, 2017. The victim was reportedly limping and had a swollen and bruised cheek

and had scratch marks on her neckline.

Murphy's girlfriend told police that an argument between her and Murphy got started due to fits of jealousy. Murphy allegedly sat on her back, placed her in a rear-naked chokehold, and pulled her head so far back that she thought her neck was going to snap.

The victim also reportedly kicked Murphy on the face. She later called her cousin for help.

The victim was taken to CHCC for treatment. Her injuries included a sprained ankle, scratch marks/bruising from her left shoulder to her collarbone, swelling and bruising on her lower forearm (right arm) and slight bruising on her shoulder (backside).

She accused Murphy of be-

ing physically abusive with her since the time they got together in February 2017. The victim reported that Murphy becomes aggressive and rowdy when he is angry, that he would punch, slap, shove or pull her, yell at or threaten to physically assault her.

After preliminary investigations at about 6:54am on Dec. 27, Murphy was arrested and brought to the Department of Corrections.

On Dec. 28 at 1:30 pm, Murphy was presented to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho for a bail hearing. Bail posted was \$1,250, which Murphy failed to post. He was remanded back to Department of Corrections.

Preliminary hearing is on Jan. 8, 2018. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilbersheid will represent the government, while public defender Nancy Dominski will represent Murphy.

Court dismisses DPL employee from lawsuit

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismisses all allegations against a Department of Public Lands employee due to insufficient evidence.

Il Hwan Kim and KSA Corp. had sued Department of Public Lands official Ramon S. Salas on the grounds of racketeering.

Kim alleged that Salas was part of a racketeering scheme that cost Kim and KSA thousands of dollars.

Yesterday, the federal court granted Salas' motion for summary judgment, dismissing all allegations against him.

According to the docket obtained from the NMI District Court, evidence provided by Kim against Salas were inadmissible, or not sufficient to create a question of material fact to counter Salas' motion.

Kim initiated the lawsuit by first filing a verified complaint that was signed by KSA Corp. vice president Eddy Hocog.

The court ruled the complaint "inadmissible evidence" because Hocog was never mentioned to be present in Kim's allegations, showing no personal knowledge of the situation.

Kim also provided a spreadsheet, created and verified by

himself, as evidence of his wired transfers. To contest the spreadsheet, Salas provided the court with land clearing permits from the Department of Public Lands and consulting contracts with Kim.

Kim also alleged that Salas demanded payments, one in October 2009, of \$50,000. The spreadsheet provided by Kim contradicted his

own declaration because it showed no wire transfer of that amount around that time.

Kim's declaration also claims that, through the evidence provided, Salas and the two other persons that Kim was suing, Jin An Hun and Eun Taek Jeong, used Kim's money and pretended to assist with his investment.

The court decided that noth-

ing from the evidence that was provided demonstrates that Salas agreed to participate in a conspiracy, knew of a conspiracy, or participated in racketeering.

The final judgment to dismiss all of the allegations against Salas was ordered yesterday by NMI District Court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona.



DONATION

The First Lady Diann Torres Foundation founder and first lady Diann Torres present a donation to Gary Little of the municipality of Rota for the purchase of a front row transparent canoe for children with special needs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

3 MONTHS

From Page 1

ers have power, marking the first time the government has provided that statistic since Maria hit on Sept. 20 with winds of up to 154 mph. Officials had previously reported only power generation, which stands at nearly 70 percent of pre-storm levels.

"It's just extraordinary that it is still so far away from being 100 percent recovered," said Susan Tierney, a senior adviser for Denver-based consulting company Analysis Group who testified before a U.S. Senate committee on efforts to restore power in Puerto Rico. "I'm not aware of any time in recent decades since the U.S. has electrified the entire economy that there has been an outage of this magnitude."

One of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities remains entirely without power, and it's unclear when some electricity will be restored to the central mountain town of Ciales. Crews this

week restored power for the first time to parts of the southeast coastal town of Yabucoa, which received the first hit from Maria.

Among those still in the dark is Christian Pagan, 58, who lives near the capital of San Juan and said it was the government's fault that a large number of people still don't have power.

"Everybody saw that the devastation was great, but I don't understand why they're trying to sell people something that's not real," he said of the explanations the government has provided as to why power has not been fully restored. "The first month was lost to bureaucracy and an uncoordinated reaction."

He especially criticized the power company's former director, Ricardo Ramos, who resigned in late October after signing a \$300 million contract for a Montana-based company that had only two full-time employees when the storm hit. Ramos also had said that he did not ac-

tivate mutual-aid agreements with power companies in the U.S. mainland in part because there was no way to communicate with them.

"That's the kind of help you ask for three days before the hurricane," Pagan said.

It is not yet known what percentage of businesses and homes now have electricity. Power company spokesman Geraldo Quiñones told The Associated Press that officials are still working to obtain that data, stressing that the optical fiber that helps provide the number of customers with power and other data was destroyed by the hurricane.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello had pledged 95 percent power generation by Dec. 15, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said the entire island will have power by May.

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of a union that represents workers with Puerto Rico's power company, told the AP on Friday that a recent study by local engineers found that 90 percent of industries

and 75 percent of businesses already have power, meaning residential areas are disproportionately in the dark.

Martinez said the company should have provided the number of customers without power a while ago, adding that officials had other ways of obtaining the information despite the damaged fiber optic cable.

Martinez also said that a lack of supplies and equipment is slowing power restoration efforts, echoing an early concern by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which also has said that Puerto Rico's rough terrain presents another challenge.

Government officials said nearly 14,000 poles already have been shipped to Puerto Rico, and that another 7,000 will arrive in upcoming days. In addition, some 3,500 workers are trying to restore power across the island, with many working through the holidays and others even stripping down to their shorts to swim across a cold river with a strong current to reach damaged infrastructure.

MISSING

From Page 1

If you have any information about Bautista's whereabouts, contact DPS at 664-9000 or 664-9001.

There has been a rash of persons being reported missing in the last three months but most of them later turn up. The last report of a person

who remains missing is assistant public defender Jamal A. Saleh, who has been reported missing since Oct. 3, 2017.

Since 1995, at least 17 persons have been reported missing in the CNMI, yet those cases remain unresolved. There could be more; the 17 are the only ones that could be gleaned from the *Saipan Tribune* archives. (Bea Cabrera)

EXPECT

From Page 1

ber we had," he said, adding that the number could be between 12,998 and, hopefully, 18,000. The law that created the CW program mandates bringing down that number to zero by 2019.

The NMBAC's proposed bill has a provision that includes a prevailing wage for CW-1 visa holders. The prevailing wage is the average wage paid to employees in similar jobs. This means that there would be parity between CW-1 visa holders that are within the same job description.

"The prevailing wage was another provision that was asked. They [agreed] that a prevailing wage should be instituted because it is a policy of every other U.S. visa," he said, adding that employment visas usually have a prevailing wage attachment.

"This is another one of those visas that should have a prevailing wage attached," said Sablan, adding that NMBAC believes it would provide parity in the wages in the CNMI, based on a CNMI study.

The final provision that Congress is looking into is that of the sharing of information with the CNMI government.

"They mentioned that it was

kind of ridiculous [to make a] Freedom of Information Act request to get information on our CW-1 numbers, so they are agreeable that this should be relaxed and that they should be sharing this data with the CNMI," said Sablan.

According to him, these four provisions were "being discussed" out of the several others that they proposed during their door-knocking sessions in Washington, D.C. after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reduced the number of CW-1 slots by 3,000 for fiscal year 2018 on Nov. 22, 2017.

While only the four were discussed, Sablan said he wishes that the bill's provision to include the CNMI Department of Labor in the CW-1 process for prioritizing U.S. citizens.

"[This is so that] the employers are not [working around] local laws...to ensure that we are filling U.S. citizen jobs...first and foremost, over and above the foreign national workers," said Sablan. He added that, as with Guam, which has its own department of labor involved, this would ensure that priority goes to U.S. citizens seeking jobs.

Sablan noted yesterday that the time is of the essence for the bill, as come April 2018, several CW-1 visa would already be affected by the 3,000 cut.

Seven missing persons found in Chuuk seas

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified by the Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, Search and Rescue Liaison of an overdue vessel with seven persons on-board on Dec. 24, 2017.

The 24-foot vessel left the island of Weno on Dec. 22 and had not arrived at Hall Islands as anticipated by family members who notified local agencies and began searching for their family.

Coast Guard Sector Guam provided search patterns to the motor vessel *Cape Daisy* and *Calypso Island*, who are both registered to the automated mutual-assistance rescue system, a worldwide voluntary reporting system for search and rescue sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The FSM patrol boat, FSS *Independence* and Coast Guard cutter *Kiska* also began searching for the missing vessel, along with a Coast Guard C130 and Navy P8 aircraft providing aerial support.

The FSS *Independence* located the swamped vessel during its search pattern provided by Sector Guam on Dec. 27, with all seven survivors still on board who were safely transferred back to Chuuk.

The Sector Guam Command duty officer, Jason Roman, said, "It was a great team effort between the FSM search and rescue community and Coast Guard Sector Guam. Communication is always a challenge when dealing with long distance cases but we were able to effectively pass on search patterns and allocate resources to get the job done. We are happy we were able to find them safe and in good health." (USCG)

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MVA issues first tour guide certificates



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tour guides of Hana Tour Service, J.J. Corp., Light Star Corp., Pacific Eagle Enterprise, Yellow Balloon Tour, Long Tong Tour, Saipan Grace Tour Agency, and Zheng Chen Corp., receive their Marianas tour guide certificates from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, second from left, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan on Dec. 28, 2017.

The first graduates of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Tour Guide Certification Program received their certificates on Dec. 28, 2017, marking 43 tour guides from seven tour operators who have received the recognition.

Certified tour operators were Pacific Eagle Enterprise, Hana Tour Service, Yellow Balloon Tour, Saipan Adventure, Long Tong Tour, Zheng Chen Corp., Saipan Grace Tour Agency, J.J. Corp., and Light Star Corp.

"It's a pleasure to recognize our tour operators and tour guides who have demonstrated their proficiency in Marianas' history, culture, wildlife, regulations, and more. They are often the first and last impression on our visitors and are very important for ensuring visitor satisfaction with their trip," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As a destination, the Marianas will provide a more informed, meaningful, and safe visit for our visitors as we continue to train guides and operators as quickly as possible through our partnership with Northern Marianas College."

NMC began classes for the program on Oct. 23, 2017. The 20 hours of class instruction is Monday through Friday beginning at 5pm and includes CNMI history, CNMI geography, CNMI rules and regulations, principles of tour guiding/tour operations, tour guide customer

See MVA on Page 8

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tour guides of Saipan Adventure are among the first to receive their Marianas tour guide certificates from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, far left, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan on Dec. 28, 2017.

MVA

From Page 6

service, tour guide safety & security, protecting the environment, and CNMI culture and legends.

"At this point, all tour guides and tour operators should be signed up, in our database, and at least on the waiting list for training," said tour guide certification program manager Kuen-Hee Han. "The certification regulations are now fully enforceable, so we encourage anyone who has not yet come in to do so."

Tour guide application fees are \$50, tour operator application fees are \$100, and the tuition to attend classes are \$250. Tour guides will be required to complete the training course and pass a final comprehensive exam to receive certification. As proposed under draft regulations, individual tour guides will also be required to provide police and traffic clearances. Tour guides will be required to display their badges when conducting tours. The certification would be valid for three years unless revoked or suspended, but the badge would need to be renewed every year.

Tour operators and tourist land/sea transport operators would be required to provide: 1) proof that the applicants maintain an office within the CNMI, 2) a certification that the applicant does not employ any tour guides that are not certified pursuant to the regulations, 3) proof that the applicant maintains a bank account in the CNMI under the business' name, 4) the applicant's business license, 5) the name of an employee or a retained independent contractor who is fluent in the English language, and 6) proof that the applicant is a member in good standing with the MVA.

Violations may result in monetary sanctions, revocation of a certification and/or business license, refusal to issue or renew a certification, or equitable sanctions. Under the current law, the MVA and other government agencies are responsible for enforcement. The MVA will also allow its security guards stationed at major tourist sites to act as enforcement officials.

For an application and checklist, email info@mymarianas.com. For more information, contact Han at khan@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200. (PR)

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Local labor office collects data on CW non-renewals

The CNMI Department of Labor is requesting the assistance of businesses to report data on recent CW-1 visa non-renewals.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said that data on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services non-renewals that have been misclassified or put into general occupational categories, including mitigation efforts, is currently being compiled.

"The focus is on getting information from the businesses who have received denials for their CW permit applications. We would like the information to get to DOL via tele-

phone or email, at the earliest time. We are compiling the data to demonstrate the impact of the CW permit denials, in terms of how the business revenue is affected, what the businesses are doing to mitigate the loss of their CW employees, and any other information having to do with the CW program," Benavente said.

With the recent passing of H.R. 339, or the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, Benavente said that CW-1 visas will generally no longer be available to workers who will be performing jobs classified as construction and

extraction occupations in the U.S. Department of Labor's Standard Occupational Classification system.

According to USCIS, the CNMI Department of Labor will generally identify the SOC group on the required job vacancy announcement. While USCIS will consider the job classification identified on the JVA, USCIS is not bound by this determination and may make a separate and independent judgment based on a preponderance of the evidence in each case.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said that data collected will

help evaluate the mitigation of private sector workforce and better address petitions that have been misclassified on a case-by-case basis.

"I encourage the private sector to compile their CW workforce data as it relates to USCIS permit non-renewals. This data will serve to illustrate the further impact of the drop in workforce, as well as the issues with the permitting process," Torres said.

For more information call 664-3190, 322-0996, 322-9935 or email Elaine Rosario at elainerosario.dol@gmail.com. (PR)



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ADDENDUM NO. 1

December 27, 2017

RFP18-GOV-027

Tinian Municipal Transfer Station Equipment

The following have been amended and/or added to this RFP:

1. Minutes of Pre-Proposal Meeting.
2. Revised specification for the Forklift from Tier 3 to Tier 4.
3. Forms
4. Questions/Responses
5. Revised date for proposals.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP18-GOV-027, Tinian Municipal Transfer Station Equipment** on the forms provided. Provide one original and four copies and to be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Monday, January 26, 2018 ChST to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. ChST, Monday, January 26, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, January 26, 2018, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than February 6, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government.

All other requirements remain the same on this RFP.

The amendment/changes may be picked up at the CIP Office, or contact Ms. Nerissa Benavente at 664-2371 or email her at nerissa.cip@gmail.com for the documents.

The proposal is due January 26, 2018.

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 1



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. will be closed for Professional Development on Friday, Jan. 5, 2018. It will be resuming regular business hours again on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018. (PR)

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) during the following dates and times:

- Jan. 5, from 7:30am to 5pm
- Jan. 6, from 10am to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Jan. 5, from 7:30am to 5pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

High surf seen until Saturday

Based on the information received from the National

Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a large north swell will produce hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents along north facing reefs the next couple of days.

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Saturday.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan has issued a high surf advisory, which Surf will be hazardous at 7 to 9 feet along north facing reefs until today, Thursday, and may rise to 10 feet at times Thursday night. Surf will remain hazardous at least into Friday night.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near reef lines and exposed beaches, especially those facing north, as rip currents will be life threatening. (EOC)

BECQ beach cleanup on Saturday

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at San Antonio Beach (behind the middle school) on Jan. 6, 2018.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the San Antonio Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who par-

ticipated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (PR)

NMC offices closed today

All Academic Programs and Services offices at the Northern Marianas College will be closed today, Jan. 5, to allow faculty and staff to participate in faculty-focused training activities. Other offices, including student service offices, will be open. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 237-6800. For more information about upcoming events, visit www.marianas.edu. (PR)

JKPL offers ukulele classes

Registration for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Beginner and Advance Ukulele Class is now open. The minimum age requirement is ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class

sessions is \$50. Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and son, Kui Lee. The deadline to register is Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018. For questions, call Celina Foreman or Victoria Cabrera at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-009

ALTERNATIVE POTABLE DRINKING WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation Project in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of installation of alternative potable drinking water disinfection systems at five (5) potable drinking water disinfection points in the CNMI, one (1) on the island of Rota, one (1) on the island of Tinian, and three (3) on the island of Saipan. These systems will be evaluated as part of an expanded, one-year pilot-study of alternatives to chlorine gas disinfection. The contractor will be responsible for installation of the automated disinfection systems as well as provision of disinfectant products and any other necessary consumables during the one-year contract period.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-009, Alternative Potable Drinking Water Disinfection System Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, CUC Water Engineer via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

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INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-18

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for **Solid Waste Collection Services** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **bid package** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning **December 22, 2017** upon payment of **\$100.00**. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until **2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, January 12, 2018**. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: "Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-18". Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

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MCS to celebrate Catholic Schools Week



Mount Carmel School recognizes its Parents of the Year last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Later this month, Mount Carmel School will join Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota and Catholic schools across the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

This year's CSW theme is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed," which was announced by the National Catholic Educational Association.

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero is excited about the theme and the weeklong celebration. "For 65 years, our school has definitely helped mold students who learn, serve, lead,

and succeed." Referring to the school's alumni, who are called AlumKnights after the school's mascot, Deleon Guerrero added, "At the local, regional, and even national levels, our AlumKnights have embraced this year's theme as successful leaders who serve their communities in business, government, and non-profits."

Mount Carmel School has prepared a full week of events that highlight a different aspect of the school each day. On Sunday, Jan. 28, at 9am, MCS students will gather at the Mount Carmel Cathedral to kick off CSW

2018 with a Mass. On Monday, MCS junior high and high school students will engage in different activities that support community services. Elementary school students will make banners expressing their appreciation for the school's many donors and supporters. Tuesday will be dedicated to MCS faculty and staff. On that day, MCS will hold an appreciation program for faculty and staff, in which the 2018 Teacher of the Year will be announced.

On Wednesday, MCS will start with a Mass, followed by a vocations talk and other

activities honoring vocations.

MCS will shift its attention on Thursday, students honor the many ways that volunteer groups have contributed. Friday morning will have MCS students participating in a roadside waving in the morning, followed by field activities and demonstrations. Friday night will highlight the school's signature CSW event, Family Night. Held on the

school grounds beginning at 6pm, Family Night will feature dinner, entertainment, and the presentation of the Parents of the Year awards.

The school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week will conclude with the "Night with the Knights" AlumKnight fundraising banquet on Saturday. The "Night with the Knights" will feature a music video montage of the school's

history, raffle prizes, and entertainment. The event will also include the announcement of the 2018 AlumKnight of the Year. Tickets for the Night with the Knights are \$50 each and can be purchased at the school's business office or from AlumKnights.

For more information, call 234-6184 or email Priscilla Dela Cruz at presdelacruz@gmail.com.

The celebration of Catholic Schools Week began as an annual event in 1974. (PR)



Every year, Catholic Schools Week at Mount Carmel School concludes with its Night with the Knights AlumKnight fundraiser, where the school recognizes the AlumKnight of the Year. The 2017 recipient was business pioneer Jesus V. "J.M." Deleon Guerrero, front center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 SAIPAN, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives Notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA¹

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of the Minutes
 - a. December 21, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments²

III. Reports

1. Chair
2. Board Committees
 - a. CIP
 - b. FPA
 - c. ISA
 - d. LIA
 - e. SARC
 - f. SICPP
3. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - b. Head Start Program
 - c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

1. Election of Officers
2. School Year 16-17 Annual Report
3. Model Code of Ethics
4. Proposed Revised Organizational Chart
5. Certification and Licensure Matters
 - a. CLO Report 2017-015

VI. Executive Session³

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

¹ In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



2018 CCA Board of Directors & GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTICE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to its annual general membership meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the president's 2017 annual report as well as the treasurer's financial report. Immediately after the representations, election of two (2) board members will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via email and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com

Imperial Pacific CSR's 'Caregiver Appreciation Project' continues



Staff of the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) Ltd. work alongside each other in weaving baskets to be filled with gifts for the elderly. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Corporate Social Responsibility team of Imperial Pacific International Ltd. has set its first goal for the *Man'amko* Caregiver's Appreciation Project: Weaving over 100 baskets to be filled with goodies.

Launched during the Christmas season, IPI-CSR and the Office on Aging came up with the project to honor and recognize the elderly members of the community.

Today, Jan. 5, IPI-CSR is set to begin distributing the gifts to 111 elderly members of the community. (PR)



IPI-CSR has set a goal of weaving over a hundred native baskets. This was initiated as a way to recognize the elderly's hard work. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Vegas, the best Gaming Club in Saipan is proud to announce due to popular demand a New Year Mystery Wallet Draw!

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Website: www.marianaslabor.net



NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The CNMI Department of Labor ("DOL") announces that Employers must comply with the following Employment Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Failure to comply with these Regulations may cause an employer to be charged with a Notice of Violation by the Department of Labor (DOL), which could result in fines and other sanctions after a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office. Failure to comply with these Regulations could also cause an employer to be denied a Certificate of Good Standing.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcements on DOL's Website.

DOL Regulations require employers who are hiring or renewing CW-1 status workers on a full-time basis to post job vacancy announcements on the Department's website (www.marianaslabor.net). See DOL Regulations at the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code ("NMIAC") § 80-20.1-225(a).

No waiver is available with respect to this job vacancy announcement requirement. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. File Quarterly Total Workforce Listings.

DOL Regulations require employers to submit information *on a quarterly basis* regarding "the number and classification of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter." [Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-505 et seq.] The Department requires employers to submit this information in a document called the "Total Workforce Listing."

Employers are required to file Total Workforce Listings on a quarterly basis, due on the last day of the month following the quarter:

First Quarter (January–March)...due on April 30
2nd Quarter (April – June).....due on July 31
3rd Quarter (July – September)...due on October 31
4th Quarter (Oct. – December)...due on January 31

ATTENTION: The Total Workforce Listing for the 4th Quarter of 2017 is due on January 31, 2018.

3. File Annual Workforce Plan or Updated Existing Plan.

DOL Regulations require all employers who employ nonimmigrant aliens (e.g., CW-1 status employees) to file an updated Workforce Plan every 12 months. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510.

The Workforce Plan form is available on the DOL website (www.marianaslabor.net/forms).

The objective of the Workforce Plan is to increase the percentage of U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents in the workforce of the employer. The plan shall include a timetable for accomplishing the replacement of nonimmigrant employees with qualified citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(a-b). For description of exemptions and loss of exemptions to workforce plan, refer to Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510, (d) 1-3.

4. Workforce Participation – Minimum Percentage.

DOL Regulations and statutes [3 CMC § 4525(a)] require all employers to maintain a full-time workforce in which a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the full-time employees are U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents and/or U.S. permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525(a) and Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3).

Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% may result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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The perils of a cashless society

By **MIKKI KENDALL**
Los Angeles Times

Mikki Kendall is a writer from Chicago. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Hood Feminism* and can be found online @karnythia. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Visa last year offered up to 50 small businesses a \$10,000 bounty to go cashless. Though it is still too early to know what will happen to the businesses that won the contest (Visa has not announced the winners yet), the key arguments in favor of cash-abandonment are that it would lead to more efficient service and carry a lower risk of theft. A recent New York Times article profiled restaurants in Manhattan that take only plastic, and boosters are looking forward to an entirely cashless society.

Doing away with cash may indeed sound appealing. Proponents often note that China and India have already gone further in this direction than the United States. But a few drawbacks are obvious: Card companies such as Visa charge merchants high processing fees, the risk of fraud balances out the lower risk of theft, older customers may not wish to make the change, and consumers will lose yet more privacy (corporations will have the ability to track every purchase made). Perhaps less obvious is that a cashless system will exclude the poor and near-poor.

Many impoverished people don't have credit cards or bank accounts. The very poor can't take plastic if they're begging on the street.

Conditions in the U.S. are nowhere near optimal for a leap to a cashless society; too many people would be left behind. Your millennial friend may be happy to accept money via Paypal or another app, your cafe may use an iPad instead of a cash register, but landlords in low-income areas still prefer money orders. It's convenient for consumers to charge, say, an outing to the nail salon—but when you add the tip to your credit card bill, it may never make it to the worker.

The reasons one might not have a bank account—with an associated credit or debit card—are many and varied. Workers who lack photo identification may find it nearly impossible to obtain an account under current rules. Immigrants in the country illegally may fear losing access to savings in the event of deportation. More mundane: a poor credit history or simply not having enough money to maintain a minimum balance.

According to FDIC research, nearly 16 million American adults are unbanked; an additional 24.5 million are underbanked, reliant on services such as payday loans, cash advances and other “alternative” products.

These men and women are largely reliant on cash. It's true that many have access to reloadable debit cards such as Green Dot, Rush or those available at big-box stores such as Wal-Mart. But those cards can carry significant fees for the

See SOCIETY on Next Page



Remember, much of what Trump does can be undone

President Donald Trump finally got the major legislation he wanted when Congress passed a massive tax cut. Whether this will be an enduring legacy, however, is another question. The next Democratic Congress should be able to undo much of the tax bill—and, for that matter, much of what this administration has wrought through legislation. As the so-called resistance looks ahead to another year of protest, Trump opponents should distinguish between what's likely to stick, and what isn't.

For all the talk about how Trump was a different, more populist kind of Republican, the tax law he signed is cartoonish proof that the GOP is slavishly devoted to the interests of the rich. And despite the tax “reform” label, House Speaker Paul D. Ryan's crowning achievement does not simplify the tax code; it makes the tax code more complex. It was so hastily drafted and contains so many new giveaways to the wealthy that tax attorneys will be among the biggest winners. It's a huge gift to people who least need relief in a time of increasing inequality. One of the most telling features of the bill is that the modest breaks for the middle class are set to expire in less than a decade, while the corporate cuts are permanent.

As a result, the bill is remarkably unpopular, with surveys suggesting that it is opposed by more than half of the population and supported by only a third. Indeed, since the advent of modern polling, the only major legislative initiative that was less popular with the public was the Republican proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

What makes programs like Social Security sticky is that they provide valuable benefits to ordinary people. Tax “reform” doesn't qualify. The next unified Democratic government will not pay a political price for modifying the GOP's deeply unpopular cuts. Democrats will probably not fully repeal the bill—many of the middle-class breaks may be extended, for example—but they can and will substantially increase taxes on the wealthy the next time they have the opportunity.

Of course Trump is making his presence felt beyond legislation. As president, he has a great deal of power to affect how legislation is implemented after the fact. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is busy dismantling critical regulations. Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions is reducing civil rights and voting rights enforcement. The interim director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has literally removed consumer

By **SCOTT LEMIEUX**
Los Angeles Times

Scott Lemieux is a lecturer in political science at the University of Washington. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



protection from the bureau's mandate. And similar changes are happening throughout the executive branch.

As with the tax cut, however, such policy changes will mostly not endure. The next Democratic nominee to head the EPA will prioritize environmental protection over corporate profits. The next Democratic attorney general will robustly enforce civil rights. The next Democratic head of the CFPB will see his or her job as protecting consumers rather than dismantling consumer regulations.

Granted, some damage by Trump cronies can't be undone. The deregulation of carbon emissions, even on a short-term basis, will hurt the whole planet. Victims of employment discrimination or police brutality who get claims rejected will probably never be made whole. Consumers who get ripped off under practices that have been made legal by the CFPB are out of luck. And the next Democratic administration will have to spend time and resources undoing policy changes, sapping energy that could have been used elsewhere.

Perhaps most concerning, from a long-term perspective, is the Trumpification of the judiciary. When the Senate confirmed the 49-year-old arch-conservative Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, it instantly granted Trump a durable political “win.” Just how much of a win will depend on future events. Gorsuch replaced Antonin Scalia, another arch-conservative. But three non-conservative Supreme Court justices—the moderate Anthony M. Kennedy and the liberals Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer—will be 80 by the midterm election. If one of them leaves the court and Trump confirms a replacement, the court will move rightward for decades. This shift would have a huge influence on the course of American politics, not least by sharply constraining what the next Democratic Congress can accomplish.

Even if Gorsuch is Trump's only Supreme Court nomination, Trump is getting federal judges confirmed at a record rate. He's packing the lower courts with young, reactionary and, in some cases, comically unqualified judges who will affect American jurisprudence for the worse.

Legislation isn't forever. Damage to the nation's reputation isn't forever, either. A resounding defeat at the ballot box will suffice to undo much of Trump's handiwork. Reserve your most acute outrage for everything else.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Studying an ancient trail

Now that we've closed the books on 2017, I'll mention one of my highlights for the year: After a great deal of searching I found a teacher to help me study an ancient Chinese book of wisdom known as the I Ching. That search was, on its own, quite an adventure.

A few of my friends have since become interested in the work. This is due largely to the influence it had on famous Western minds such as the doctor Carl Jung and the mathematician Gottfried Leibniz.

I'd like to say more about this later in 2018. There's no point in following a trail, though, if we lose sight of why we found it to begin with. With that in mind, I'm going to refresh our minds with excerpts from a 2016 article I ran, "Finding an ancient trail," which was about the I Ching:

A flight between China and Saipan takes about four hours. Today we'll take a journey that spans about 3,000 years, back to when an ancient work called the I Ching was compiled.

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1642-1727) was a German mathematician. History has stuffed him in Isaac Newton's shadow, but I thought Leibniz deserved more than a mere flicker of attention. He's a bedrock of that great Western invention, calculus, but some of his observations had a distinctly Eastern perspective.

Among his possessions was a diagram from the I Ching. If you take a look at a Korean flag, which isn't hard to do on Saipan, you'll notice four three-lined arrangements around the center of the flag. These "trigrams" are rooted in ancient Chinese symbolism, and, when stacked up into six-line "hexagrams," they are the basis of the I Ching.

Intrigued? I was. So I started looking for a book on the I Ching.

At this point, another German enters the picture, one Richard Wilhelm (1873-1930). Herr Wilhelm lived in China for a span of years. Wilhelm translated the Chinese I Ching into German, the German was translated into English by Cary Baynes, and this Chinese-to-German-to-English tome was published by the Princeton University Press.

The Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung (1875-1961) wrote a foreword to the book. Herr Doktor Jung and Wilhelm were apparently pals.

Jung is still a household name—well, depending on the household, I guess. His foreword to Wilhelm's I Ching was not the only material Jung wrote about Chinese philosophy. One such book that Jung wrote is titled *Synchronicity: An Acausal Connecting Principle*. It's also published by Princeton University Press. I had an opportunity to thumb through the book earlier this week, but I don't know if I'll get around to reading it.

Anyway, with names like Jung and Leibniz in the fan club, it's safe to say that the I Ching has real star power in the West.

The I Ching was a method of "divination," which is a fancy word for fortune-telling. But it looks to me like the I Ching really dispenses advice for specific contexts, as opposed to spitting

out blind prognostications like a machine at a carnival. Although you arrive at the contexts via a random walk (by, for example, flipping coins), the analysis of the contexts has a lot of old-school wisdom. For me, that's where the juice is.

I'll pick a random example: the context of a traveler or wanderer. Many people on Saipan have worked afield, so that's a good situation to consider.

So here's some I Ching advice: "If the wanderer busies himself with trivial things, he draws down misfortune upon himself."

Wilhelm expounds on this, explaining that a wanderer should be humble and should avoid jokes and bufoonery, which will lead to being regarded with contempt. I think we've all seen examples of this, where travelers think they're more clever than they really are, and, while the locals might politely smile at the loudmouth from afar, things aren't so rosy under this calm surface.

Anyway, that sort of context, and the wisdom that's attached to it, gives you a sense of what I'll call the I Ching's output. I find these tidbits of wisdom, and Wilhelm's explanations, very interesting and highly practical.

As for the methods used to generate the output, well, that gets esoteric and you could probably invest an entire career studying

In fairness to US taxpayers

This year marks the 40th year of self-government of the NMI. It is a concept that basically means the ability to provide for the basic needs of our people paid for via locally raised revenue.

It seems, though, that the concept has eluded us throughout the period. Aren't we still junketing across the Pacific for more money from U.S. taxpayers?

Have we ably instituted and strengthened accountability in government? Or is this sentiment still limited to white sheets of paper where empty speeches are written that eventually slip off the edge?

Obviously, political maturity still languishes in its embryonic stage, doesn't it? Have we responsibly taxed the single licensed casino business here that is reportedly hauling billions of dollars? Is there an explanation for such failure in fiduciary duty? Is the money from U.S. taxpayers our backstop for rainy days? Don't you think they too have familial obligations?

Do we still wish to impoverish the more than 43 million fellow citizens now drowning in below abject poverty conditions across the country? Isn't it time that we begin owning up to our responsibilities as citizens? Whatever happened to common decency? I raise this issue for it seems our definition of self-government is as foggy as it was 40 years ago. We may brave it but we owe more than \$700 million in deficit, true?

Throughout my government career I was fortunate to have visited about 39 states on business. I have taken the time to visit small-town America where storeowners still man the family-founded business before heading out into farm fields. These are industrious folks who have earned every penny by working the clock before retiring at night.

Strange the phrase I've seen spread across the heavens that say "No worries, the U.S. Congress would approve your next appropriation." I'm literally living off hardworking taxpayers' contribution. It was a very humiliating experience. No worries! I've been to the ghettos of New York and L.A. to understand the unfairness of our spoiled expectations.

When do we come to terms shouldering the requisite obligation to institute strong financial foundation to support self-government? Why are we still spending scarce resources like drunk sailors? When do we institute accountability in government?

The powerful stench of embarrassing disconnection should grant Da Boysis retreat time to critically review and define the extent of self-government here. The squandering of nearly a million dollars in retirement and taxpayers' money has apparently been treated with indifference, if not inconsequence. Is this the strength of self-government here? Whatever happened to fiduciary duty to guard against political corruption?

Until the day the NMI no longer begs for more money for food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, housing assistance, millions of dollars for our educational and healthcare systems, water, power, roads and sewer system, only then would there be opportunities to see political maturity in self-government. As it is, our claims to have it are at best vacuous, the spout of ignoramus at worst. It would be good to compile the figures for instant reference purposes. How much are we talking about and isn't this inadequacy an issue for the elected elite to ponder upon and resolve? Should give us an idea how much are we milking U.S. taxpayers!

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



that stuff. It's rooted in the nature of natural elements (mountains, thunder, etc.) and how they interact with each other. These are what's depicted in the hexagrams.

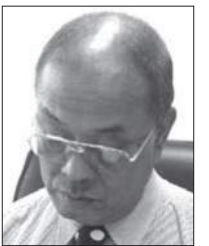
I'm still working my way through Wilhelm's book. I'm also trying to find an expert to help me answer a few questions I have about the subject, so I'll just have to see how that goes.

It's sure an interesting trail, though, which connects the ancient Chinese wisdom to Germans like Leibniz and Wilhelm, to Dr. Jung in Switzerland, to the Korean flags that you can see on Saipan, and to the thoughts that entertain a guy who's sitting in a beach chair.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



No casino tax: Would U.S. taxpayers be happy to learn that we don't even tax the income accrued by the untouchable casino business here that repatriate billions to mainland China? Can you imagine how much would have gone into the local treasury had we taxed such income at least 10 percent? Eh, we'd be most competent, declaring to Washington "no mas" like we did in 1993. Such isn't the case today and not when the elected elite—staggering in disorientation and hooked on sugar daddies—prefer junket trips to hide inadequacies. So much for hope in the future!

Our inadequacies translate into more money from U.S. taxpayers we pull out of the federal government. I'm sure their representatives won't be pleased to learn that the NMI never taxed the income of players rolling across the table reportedly up to \$3 billion to \$4 billion at a given month. When do we own up to our responsibilities so the playing field is fair to U.S. taxpayers?

Duel: The heat for most coveted seat here would eventually kick-start and reach their boiling point. For now I'd leave the contest to the two matadors so they'd have a chance to flex their muscles. Then we'd probe their wares to see what are they made of and if they are sufficiently sturdy for the task at hand.

I'd also be reviewing the credentials of legislative candidates. I'd like to see academic and professional credentials listed for public review. Do you have college experience or what degree did you get?

Policymaking entails formulating state policies, thus the public's right to know your credentials or qualifications. Do you really have the prerequisites to work on policy formulation or is it a strange contraption all the way around?

If you have credentials then you wouldn't have problems securing clarity of understanding of issues in addition to the ability to articulate them in educated fashion. Garbled explanation doesn't offer much to avoid impressions of incompetency!

Silence: Throughout the holiday season I was humming Simon and Garfunkel's *The Sound of Silence*. It was an interesting piece that stayed with me throughout the period. I can't help but see before dusk villagers closing their doors and windows, calling it a day. This is when that eerie silence sets in.

I'd mull if it were the sign of the times where abject poverty among households has turned miserably for the worse. Unsure what it all meant but it is definitely troubling.

There also popped the seemingly innocent query: who among corporations here would bankroll the careers of servile lapdogs on the hill? Now this has sent me into nightmares how the combined elite has settled to whimsically dictate their agenda against the multitude. Halo! EVERbody home?

SOCIETY

From Page 14

consumer as well as for the merchants that accept them. Green Dot even charges users a fee to check their balance.

Workers who live from paycheck to paycheck can easily slide from the traditional banking world to the underbanked world and then to the unbanked.

Traditional banks may only tolerate so many bounced checks, and may not only close accounts belonging to "bad" customers but bar them from ever creating a new one. That ding on a credit report can have a cascading effect, touching everything from housing to future employment prospects. Finally, the interest on a payday loan or the fees on a reloadable debit card can push a person deeper into debt, and poverty.

If you carry cash instead of a high-fee debit card, you're better off—unless of course merchants refuse to accept your hard currency.

After my divorce in 2001, I had to completely overhaul my life financially. My ex-husband had not been the most responsible person when we had a joint account, and it took me some months to repair the damage to my credit.

I remember what it was like to use a currency exchange to cash my paychecks. I remember having to pay bills there, buy money orders and so on. I eventually saved enough money to maintain the required minimum balance at a bank, and I mostly use cards now. But from my vantage point, I can see that the cashless future won't be easy and convenient. For too many, it'll be a new hardship.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

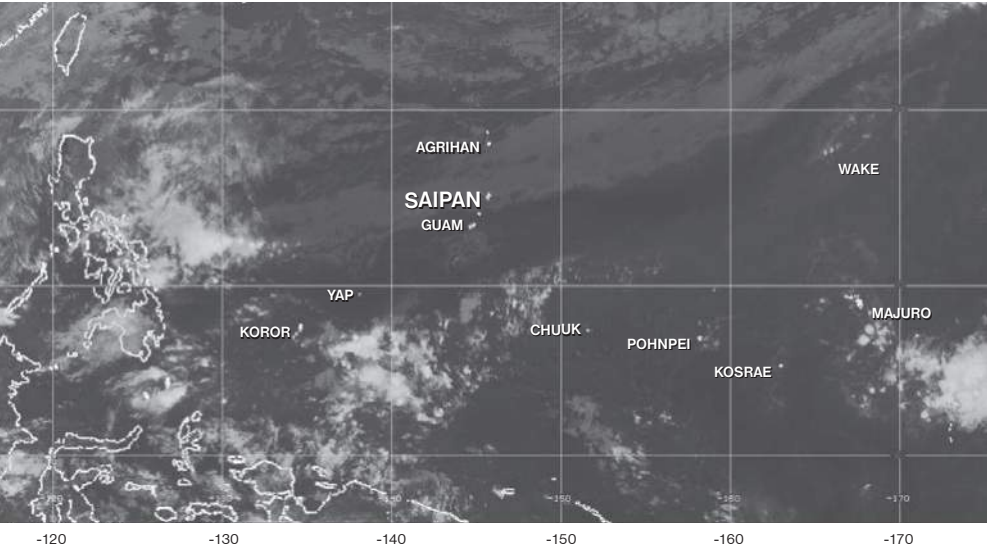
▲87° ▼77°

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:48 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast with an update of winds with new model data being the only change. A shear line could be found over the northern CNMI just north of Saipan. This shear line will progress southward bringing an increase of clouds to the local area today. GFS shows it eventually pushing south of Guam by Friday. The shear line will keep skies mostly cloudy skies through Sunday. The shear line may bring brief periods of scattered showers to Guam and Rota tonight and Friday. Scattered showers may occur a little earlier across Tinian and Saipan this afternoon. the scattered showers will continue at these two locations tonight. Winds of 10 to 15 mph today will increase to 10 to 20 mph over Tinian and Saipan this afternoon and by Friday over Guam and Rota. Winds of 20 to 25 mph are possible during the day Friday...especially over Tinian and Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	37° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Showers	66° / 64°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 71°	
London	Showers	48° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Windy	106° / 63°	
Miami	Sunny	62° / 50°	
New York	Windy	17° / 6°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 36°	
Paris	Showers	52° / 43°	
Busan	Showers	46° / 30°	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 50°	
Salem	Sunny	42° / 22°	
San Francisco	Showers	56° / 45°	
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 21°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Windy	21° / 8°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:58 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.63	
10:58 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.10	
4:43 PM	LOW TIDE	1.07	
9:28 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:23 am	9:21 pm
Saturday	-	10:12 am	10:19 pm
Sunday	-	10:58 am	11:13 pm
Monday	-	11:40 am	-
Tuesday	12:05 am	12:21 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

Business

Fed officials expect economic boost from tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve policymakers largely agreed last month that the U.S. tax overhaul would likely benefit the economy, but they were split on whether the resulting growth would warrant a faster pace of rate hikes this year.

Minutes of the Fed’s Dec. 12-13 meeting released Wednesday show that officials believed the tax cuts would drive consumer spending and increased business investment, though they expressed uncertainty over the magnitude of the boost.

The minutes indicate disagreement among Fed officials over how many times the Fed should raise its benchmark interest rate in 2018. Some felt that the projection of three rate hikes might prove too aggressive and prevent inflation from returning to the Fed’s 2 percent target.

Others felt more hikes might be needed if any one of a number of risks materialized, including the possibility that inflation might suddenly begin rising at a much faster pace amid cuts in personal and business taxes.

Private economists viewed the minutes as evidence that the pace of inflation will be a key factor determining the number of rate hikes in 2018.

“Inflation has become the most important economic variable steering the Fed’s policy right now and market investors would be well-advised to watch the inflation statistics like a hawk,” said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG Union Bank in New York.

The Fed officials who felt that the three hikes reflected in the Fed’s median economic forecast might be too much were concerned that it could make it harder to achieve the Fed’s inflation target.

A “few other participants” were worried that three rate hikes this year might not be enough because “continued low interest rates risked financial instability in the future” or the possibility that the economy could start to overheat given that unemployment is already at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent and expected to decline further.

The minutes covered last month’s discussion, which led to the central bank boosting its key policy rate for a third time in 2017, to a new but still-low range of 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent.

The minutes showed that the central bank is still committed to a “gradual” pace for future rate hikes, even though there is a dispute over whether that means another three hikes in 2018 or a “somewhat faster” pace.

Some analysts have begun to boost their forecast for this year to show four rate hikes, up from three. They expect the economy to grow faster now that Congress has approved the biggest overhaul to the tax code in three decades.

While the Trump administration believes its economic program of tax cuts and deregulation will boost economic growth in coming years to a sustained rate of 3 percent, the Fed’s revised economic projections released last month are far less optimistic.

The Fed is projecting growth of 2.5 percent this year, up from a previous forecast of 2.1 percent. But it then foresees growth slowing to 2.1 percent in 2019 and 2 percent in 2020.

Washington sues Motel 6 for giving guest information to US

SEATTLE (AP)—Washington’s attorney general sued Motel 6 on Wednesday, alleging the national budget chain disclosed the private information of thousands of its guests to U.S. immigration authorities in violation of the state consumer protection law.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson said motel employees divulged the names, birthdates, driver’s license numbers, license plate numbers and room numbers of at least 9,150 guests to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents without a warrant. At least six people were detained on or near motel property during a two-year period.

Motel 6 was aware that the agents used the guest registry information to single out guests based on their national origin in violation of Washington state’s anti-discrimination law, the state’s lawsuit filed in King County Superior Court alleged.

Ferguson said at least six Motel 6 locations in the state—all in the Puget Sound region and corporate-owned—provided the information without guests’ knowledge or consent.

Washington’s Supreme Court makes it clear that guest registry information is private, he said, and Motel 6 violated the law each time it gave out private information.


“In September, Motel 6 issued a directive to every one of our more than 1,400 locations, making it clear that they are prohibited from voluntarily providing daily guests lists to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE),” the company said in an emailed statement.

“Motel 6 takes this matter very seriously, and we have and will continue to fully cooperate with the Office of the State Attorney General,” the company added.

Rose Richeson, a spokeswoman for immigration and customs enforcement, did not immediately respond to emailed questions Wednesday.

At one Motel 6 in Everett, north of Seattle, for example, agents visited early in the morning or late at night and received a daily list of all guests staying at the location, Ferguson said. The agents would target guests with Latino-sounding names, he said. The agency would then figure out if any of the guests were wanted in connection with civil immigration issues, the lawsuit alleges.

The attorney general’s office began investigating after news reports that Motel 6 workers at two Phoenix locations provided guest information to agents who later arrested 20 people on immigration charges.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR


Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management

P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.crm.gov.mp



COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Janice E. Castro

Director, DCRM

NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 9:30AM** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of December 5th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Project: SAIPAN VEGAS & E-GAMING PROJECT – MP Holdings, LLC is constructing two modular 2-story hotel buildings with 50 units. The project includes an existing commercial building with a café, an E-Gaming facility and an additional 90 parking stalls, 4 ADA parking and 2 bus stalls. The project is located in Chalan Laulau on Chalan Pale Arnold Road.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-098

a) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions

b) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Final Determination*

B. Project: GUALO RAI OFFICE PARK – The Marianas Management Corporation is proposing to construct the Gualo Rai Office Park on the corner of Chalan Pale Arnold and Gualo Rai Road in the Lower Gualo Rai area. The planned development includes two office buildings and a new U.S. District Courthouse building. The business park includes 254 total parking spaces.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-0008

a) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions

b) CRM Permit Application Status, *Final Determination*

C. Project: GUALO RAI TOWNHOUSES – The Arcadia Partners, LLC is proposing to construct eight pre-fabricated two to three story 3-bedroom townhouses in the Gualo Rai area. The development includes two parking spaces for each unit (total of 16 parking spaces), swimming pools, landscaping, and sidewalks.
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-011

c) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions

d) CRM Permit Application Status, *Final Determination*


III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO

Director, DCRM




NOTICE OF APPLICATION

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950

TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315



COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

As of January 5, 2018

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Deep Blue Sea Corporation	12/19/2017 S/TLRm-2015-X-071	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/28/2017
2. Aquatic Marine Co., Inc. dba Aquatic Marine Sports	12/20/2017 SLRm-00-X-328	Marine Sports Renewal Snorkeling	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 1/4/2018
3. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	12/20/2017 SLRm-2014-X-065	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 1/4/2018
4. D'alma, Inc. dba SCUBA Center Diveman	12/21/2017 SLRm-2017-X-002	Marine Sports Renewal SCUBA	All Saipan Dive Sites	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/28/2017
5. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Macs Marine	12/21/2017 SLRm-2008-X-004	Marine Sports Renewal Parasailing	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved - 12/28/2017
6. J&K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J&K Marine Sports	12/22/2017 SSLR-87-X-151	Marine Sports Renewal Jetski	Saipan Lagoon	Shoreline & Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
7. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	12/27/2017 SLRm-99-X-279	Marine Sports Renewal Parasailing	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
8. CNMI Department of Public Works	12/28/2017 RMS-2018-X-029	Transfer of Interest – Pal'i Rock Quarry	Rota	Major Siting	Under Review*
9. DCRM-Planning & CNMI Public School System – Tanapag Middle School	12/29/2017 SWm-2018-X-030	Mangrove Revegetation Outreach	Tanapag, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangroves	Under Review*
10. CNMI Department of Public Works	12/29/2017 RMS-2018-X-029 Amendment 2017-1	Rota Pal'i Quarry Project	Rota	Major Siting	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations require all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major siting's. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Manafort sues Mueller, Justice Department over Russia probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman sued special counsel Robert Mueller and the Justice Department on Wednesday, saying prosecutors had overstepped their bounds by charging him for conduct that he says is unrelated to Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

The lawsuit by Paul Manafort, filed in federal court in Washington, is the most direct challenge to date to Mueller's legal authority and the scope of his mandate as special counsel. It comes amid Republican allegations of

partisan bias among members of Mueller's team, which for months has been investigating whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to influence the outcome of the U.S. election.

The lawsuit also takes aim at Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who is overseeing Mueller's investigation and recently said he was satisfied that the former FBI director was staying within the scope of his authority.

Manafort was indicted in October on charges, including money-laundering conspiracy, related to his lobbying work

on behalf of a Russia-friendly Ukrainian political party. He has pleaded not guilty. He is one of four Trump associates—including former national security adviser Michael Flynn—to be charged so far in Mueller's investigation.

In his complaint, Manafort alleges that the investigation into "decade-old business dealings" is "completely unmoored" from the mandate Mueller was given when he was named in May to probe possible ties between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign. He argues that a paragraph in Rosenstein's order

appointing Mueller, which allows him to pursue new matters he comes across during his investigation, is too broad to be permitted under the regulation that governs special counsels.

"The Special Counsel's investigation and indictment resulted from a violation of numerous DOJ policies and procedures and otherwise far exceeds any lawful authority to investigate links between individuals associated with the Trump campaign and the Russian government," the lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit asks a judge to

set aside all actions brought against Manafort by the special counsel's office and to issue an order narrowing the scope of Mueller's investigation to only matters explicitly

laid out in the appointment order. The complaint also alleges that Rosenstein's order was overly broad and arbitrary, and urges a judge to strike it down as an "abuse of discretion."

Storm slaps coastal South with most snow in nearly 3 decades

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A brutal winter storm smacked the coastal Southeast with a rare blast of snow and ice Wednesday, hitting parts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina with their heaviest snowfall in nearly three decades.

Forecasters warned that the same system could soon strengthen into a "bomb cyclone" as it rolls up the East Coast, bringing hurricane-force winds, coastal flooding and up to a foot of snow.

At least 17 deaths were blamed on dangerously cold temperatures that for days have gripped wide swaths of the U.S. from Texas to New England.

A winter storm warning extended from the Gulf Coast of Florida's "Big Bend" region all the way up the Atlantic coast. Forecasters said hurricane-force winds blowing offshore on Thursday could generate 24-foot (7-meter) seas.

Schools in the Southeast called off classes just months after being shut down because of hurricane threats, and police urged drivers to stay off the roads in a region little accustomed to the kind

of winter woes common to the Northeast.

In Savannah, snow blanketed the city's lush downtown squares and collected on branches of burly oaks for the first time in nearly eight years. William Shaw, a Savannah native, used baby steps to shuffle along a frozen road from his home to the post office.

"It almost seems the town is deserted just like in the last hurricane," said Shaw, 65. "There's no one on the street. It's got a little eerie feeling."

Dump trucks spread sand on major streets in Savannah ahead of the storm and police closed several bridges, overpasses and a major causeway because of ice.

By the time the morning's dreary sleet and rain turned to fluffy snow, Savannah came out to play. Families with children flocked to Forsyth Park near the downtown historic district for snowball fights. The National Weather Service recorded 1.2 inches (3 centimeters) of snow—Savannah's first measurable snowfall since February 2010 and the first that exceeded an inch (2.5 centimeters) in 28 years.

Trump barrels into 2018 with fresh foreign fights on Twitter

WASHINGTON (AP)—You thought President Donald Trump might mellow out in 2018? Refrain from taunting world leaders tweet by tweet? Think again.

Trump is storming into the new year in exceptionally aggressive fashion, picking fresh fights on Twitter with such speed that his aides, international partners and the public are struggling to catch up. If he was brash on the global stage in Year 1, the first days of Year 2 suggest he was just warming up.

Pakistan? Liars and swindlers who enable terrorists, the president tweeted just hours after the world celebrated the arrival of a new year.

The Palestinians? No more U.S. aid until they get their act

together and agree to peace talks with Israel.

Iran? "Failing at every level," Trump tweeted as he declared full-throated U.S. support for protesters there opposing the government.

And North Korea? Leader Kim Jong Un may have a figurative "nuclear button" on his desk, but Trump's is "much bigger," the president quipped, flippantly tossing off a threat to launch the world's first nuclear strike in more than 70 years.

To Trump's supporters, and even to his critics, it may seem business as usual. After all, in his inaugural year Trump relentlessly pushed presidential boundaries with provocative declarations that often weren't fulfilled.

Yet for foreign nations trying anxiously to interpret the U.S. leader, such statements can have real-world consequences. Pakistan is livid at Trump's remarks, summoning the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad to explain the disparagement of a key U.S. security partner. Iran's United Nations ambassador, citing "numerous absurd tweets" by Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, accused the administration of "flagrant acts of intervention." North Korea experts worry Trump's taunting of Pyongyang could lead the two countries to stumble into war.

"I think he should stop. It's dangerous. It's dangerous bravado," former Vice President Joe Biden told The Associated Press on Tuesday. During a visit

to the U.S. Capitol, Biden also said Trump needed to learn that it's not a game and that "words matter" when uttered by the commander in chief.

The White House played down the furor.

Spokeswoman Sarah Sanders insisted Trump wasn't "taunting" Kim Jong Un, merely "standing up for the people of this country." What would be dangerous, Sanders said, would be for Trump to stay silent.

"This is a president who is not going to cower down and is not going to be weak," she said.

Trump's rapid-fire spate of new pronouncements on foreign policy came as the president, fresh off his holiday vacation, made clear the second year of his presidency would be no less of a rollercoaster than the first.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OGM-045

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 06, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“LANDFILL GAS EXTRACTION FEASIBILITY STUDY
FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTON 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OGM-046

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 05, 2018 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “I” FULL SIZE SUV, FOUR
DOOR VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 18-004
Construction of an Agricultural Equipment Facility for the NMC-CREES Research Station on Tinian.

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of a "Agricultural Equipment Facility" for CREES Station, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2017 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

For Bidder located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., JANUARY 22, 2018, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 18-003 packet via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2017-31100 (Regular).

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

David S. & Margarita M. Palacios
P.O. Box 502339
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 234-9608
pro se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter) Of The Petition To) Appoint General) Guardianship For:) T.J.P.A) Minor Child) By:) DAVID SABLAN) PALACIOS and) MARGARITA) MENDIOLA) PALACIOS) Petitioners)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0581 NOTICE OF HEARING
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Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 22, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio

Dated this 28th day of December, 2017.

Patrick V. Diaz
/s/ Clerk of Court
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6547
Fax: (670)234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF SAIPAN) Plaintiff) -v-) LUIS A. SASAMOTO) Defendant.)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 01-0044
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FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Judgement issued by the Court in this matter on March 28, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant Luis A. Sasamoto in and to the following property: Lot no. 060 T 01, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 10,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 060 T 00 dated October 12, 1990, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 91-083, dated January 3, 1991, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 2, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of December, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Asia

N. Korea reopens cross-border communications with S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reopened a key cross-border communication channel with South Korea for the first time in nearly two years Wednesday as the rivals explored the possibility of sitting down and talking after months of acrimony and fears of war.

The sudden signs of easing hostilities, however, came as President Donald Trump threatened Kim with nuclear war in response to his threat earlier this week.

In his New Year's address Monday, Kim said he was willing to send a delegation to next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea. But he also said he has a "nuclear button" on his desk and that all U.S. territory is within striking distance of his nuclear weapons, comments Trump latched onto Tuesday when he boasted of a bigger and more powerful "nuclear button" than Kim's.

The two leaders exchanged crude insults last year, as the North received new U.N. sanctions over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test explosion and a series of intercontinental ballistic missile launches.

The recent softening of contact between the rival Koreas may show a shared interest in improved ties, but there's no guarantee tensions will ease. There have been repeated attempts in recent years by the rivals to talk, but even when they do meet, the efforts often end in recriminations and stalemate.

Outside critics say Kim may be trying to use better ties with South Korea as a way to weaken the alliance between Washington and Seoul as the North grapples with toughened international sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

Kim's latest announcement, which was read by a senior Pyongyang official on state TV, followed a South Korean offer on Tuesday of high-level talks with North Korea to find ways to cooperate on next month's Winter Olympics in the South and discuss other inter-Korean issues.

Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the state-run Committee for the Peaceful Reunification, cited Kim as welcoming South Korea's overture and ordering officials to reopen a communication channel at the border village of Panmunjom.

Ri also quoted Kim as ordering officials to promptly take substantial measures with South Korea out of a "sincere stand and honest attitude," according to the North's state TV and news agency.

South Korea quickly welcomed Kim's decision and later confirmed that the two Koreas began preliminary contacts on the channel. During their 20-minute communication, liaison officials of the two Koreas exchanged their names and examined their communication lines to make sure they were working, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry.

Since taking office last May, South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in has pushed hard to improve ties and resume stalled cooperation projects with North Korea. Pyongyang had not responded to his outreach until Kim's New Year's address.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire in Mumbai residential building kills at least 4 people

NEW DELHI (AP)—A fire broke out in a residential building in the Indian city of Mumbai early Thursday, killing four people. Fire officer S. Pawar said the third and fourth floors of the five-story building were engulfed before six fire engines extinguished the blaze in an hour. A New Delhi television news channel said seven people suffered burns and were taken to a hospital. Firefighters rescued 11 people trapped on the floors affected by the fire. The cause was being investigated, Pawar said. The fire occurred in the Marol area of Mumbai, a densely populated city on the west coast and India's financial and entertainment capital. A fire at an upscale rooftop restaurant in Mumbai last week killed 15 people.

Helicopter with senior Kuwait officer crashes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A helicopter carrying Kuwait's military chief of staff crashed in Bangladesh on Wednesday, but only one person on board suffered minor injuries, Kuwait's news agency reported. The chopper with Lt. Gen. Mohammed Al-Khadher aboard came down in trees because of thick fog, Kuwait's official KUNA news agency reported. A photo published on the agency's website shows the helicopter tilted forward on the ground with its tail snapped off. The

accident happened in northeastern Bangladesh during Al-Khadher's official visit. Rezaul Karim, a Bangladesh military spokesman, told The Associated Press that the helicopter made an emergency landing at Sreemongol in Moulvibazar district, about 160 kilometers (99 miles) northeast of the capital, Dhaka, and all its 16 passengers and crew were safe. He would not disclose the identity of the passengers.

Sri Lanka commission recommends prosecution of ex-minister

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president said Wednesday that a commission he appointed to investigate alleged irregularities in the sale of treasury bonds has recommended the prosecution of the country's former finance minister on bribery charges. Former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, who later became foreign minister, resigned from the Cabinet last year when it was exposed that he was allegedly occupying a luxury apartment, the rents for which were being paid by a businessman being investigated for insider trading. Making a special statement, President Maithripala Sirisena said the commission has also recommended criminal action against Karunanayake for allegedly giving false evidence before the commission. He said he has sent the inquiry report to the attorney general for legal action.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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OPERATIONS BUILDING DEMOLITION AND PARKING EXPANSION
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-17
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for Design-Build services for the demolition and removal of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's old operations building, installation of new chain-link fence connecting the existing perimeter fence at the location where the structure is to be removed, and the design and construction of a new commercial asphalt cement parking lot expansion (16 stalls) meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations, located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Operations Building Demolition/Parking Lot Expansion – Design/Build Services"**. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (see Appendix A in SOW); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the CPA Engineering.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for design and construction	60%
2. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	15%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 7, 2017




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950




SMILING COVE MARINA
TRANSIENT DOCK
PUBLIC MEETING

This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Friday, January 12, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide opportunity for input on proposed policies, regulations, fee schedule, and questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. Schedule assignments for Commercial loading and unloading will also be posted at this time.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board meeting held on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., was recessed and will be continued on Friday, January 12, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider matters set forth in the original Agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Adoption of Agenda

D. Adoption of the Minutes

1. December 5, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

E. Correspondence

Public Comments**

III. Management Reports

A. Executive Director

B. Deputy Executive Director

C. Chief Financial Officer

D. Legal Counsel

IV. Old Business

1. CHCC Billing Dispute

2. Site Assessment Report – Former Tinian Power Plant

V. New Business

1. Approval of Public Information Officer and Chief of Administration Positions

VI. Executive Session***

(Consultation with Legal Counsel Re Personnel and Other Matters)

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

World

Pro-government rallies held in Iran after week of unrest

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Tens of thousands of government supporters took to the streets across Iran on Wednesday as authorities tried to project a sense of stability after a week of nationwide protests sparked deadly clashes and calls for the downfall of the Islamic Republic.

But even as state television broadcast swooping helicopter shots showing support among Iran's 80 million people for its clerically overseen government, videos emerged showing the anti-government unrest that has swept major cities has also spread to the countryside.

The violence has killed at least 21 people and seen hundreds more arrested by authorities. Demonstrators' videos corresponded with Associated Press reporting from outside of Iran, though individual activists remain unreachable and the protests for now appear leaderless. It was not clear if new protests were held Wednesday or if the videos showed earlier incidents.

The past week's protests have been the largest since the disputed 2009 presidential election, which ended in bloodshed. While many Iranians denounce the violence that has accompanied some demonstrations, they echo the protesters' frustration over the weak economy and official corruption.

The government "should not punish the guilty and the innocent alike," said Mohammad Hossein Vakili, a 20-year-old computer science student in Tehran who has struggled to find meaningful work and who joined in peaceful protests.

"Why should they arrest



In this photo provided by Tasnim News Agency, women hold posters showing portraits of late Iranian revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a pro-government rally in the holy city of Qom, Iran, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

someone like me when I protest the rise of the price of eggs?" he said.

The protests began Dec. 28 in Mashhad, Iran's second-largest city and a bastion for hard-liners, initially focusing on Iran's flagging economy and rising food prices. Now, they've morphed into demands for wholesale change in Iran's theocratic government.

On Wednesday, state TV reported pro-government demonstrations in dozens of cities and towns, including Ahvaz, the capital of the oil-rich province of Khuzestan, the Kurdish town of Kermanshah in

the country's west and Qom, the religious capital of Shiite Islam in Iran.

All those cities have seen protests in recent days.

The pro-government crowds included women wearing the all-encompassing black chador, the occasional man in military fatigues and Shiite clerics wearing black turbans identifying them as descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. Some claimed online that government employees had been instructed to take part, something Iranian media did not discuss.

The English-language Press TV broadcast Wednesday's pro-

government rallies live, saying they sought to "protest the violence that has taken place over the last few nights in cities." State TV said the demonstrations served as an "answer to the protests," which it blamed on "servants of the U.S."

Among the slickly produced signs carried by supporters at Wednesday's pro-government rallies were ones targeting Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on Tuesday blamed the protests on meddling by "enemies of Iran."

Some demonstrators also held aloft pictures of U.S.

President Donald Trump with a bright red "X" through his face. Trump has tweeted several times over the last few days in support of the anti-government protests, comments that have angered many Iranians given his travel ban barring them from getting U.S. visas, as well as his comments over the nuclear deal.

The 2015 agreement, in which Iran curbed its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of some international sanctions, remains popular in Iran, but one of the central grievances of the protesters is that average Iranians have

Locations of major protests



seen few benefits from it.

Trump kept up with the tweets Wednesday, writing: "Such respect for the people of Iran as they try to take back their corrupt government."

He added: "You will see great support from the United States at the appropriate time!"

The United Nations' high commissioner for human rights, meanwhile, called on Iran to investigate all deaths in the protests and act "with great care so as not to further inflame violence and unrest."

"The Iranian authorities must respect the rights of all demonstrators and detainees, including their right to life, and guarantee their safety and security," Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said in a statement.

Iranian officials have downplayed the strength of the protests. Turkish officials on Wednesday said Iran's President Hassan Rouhani told his Turkish counterpart during a phone call that he hopes the protests "will end in a couple of days." Rouhani's office did not mention the comment.

Death toll rises to 51 from bus plunging over cliff in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Rescuers finished pulling 51 bodies from the wreckage of a bus that tumbled over a cliff in Peru in one of the deadliest vehicle accidents in the nation's history, authorities said Wednesday.

Nearly everyone on board was killed Tuesday after the passenger bus collided with a tractor trailer on a narrow stretch of highway known as the "Devil's Curve."

Firefighters and police worked for more than 24 hours to recover the remains, tying bodies onto stretchers and pulling them up the cliff with ropes. The bus landed on a rocky, isolated beach north of Lima with no road access.

Six survivors were taken to hospitals, including one man who told doctors he escaped harm by jumping out of a win-

dow moments before the bus fell into the abyss.

"The patient is totally stable with just some cuts and a fracture to his arm," Dr. Victor Viru, director of the Chancay Hospital, told a local television station.

The crash's death toll is equal to that of a 2013 accident that is the deadliest in recent Peruvian history. In that crash, 51 Quechua Indians were killed when the makeshift bus they were traveling in fell off a cliff and into a river.

Deadly wrecks with large numbers of victims occur with relative frequency along Peru's roadways, with more than 2,600 people killed in 2016. The crashes often involve buses carrying mostly poor Peruvians traveling outside major cities. Transportation experts blame a combination

of bad road conditions and little enforcement of traffic safety regulations.

President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski announced Wednesday that he was ordering the nation's Ministry of Transportation to begin working on plans to expand a nearby road farther from the cliff so buses no longer have to use the "Devil's Curve."

The road near the Pacific contains 52 curves in a stretch of just 22 kilometers (14 miles) bordered by a low wall just 50 centimeters (20 inches) high. It is frequently covered in mist and has been the site of numerous accidents.

In a statement issued through the Roman Catholic Church in Peru, Pope Francis offered his condolences and prayers for "the eternal rest of the victims." The pope is scheduled to visit Peru later this month.

Sub-equipped ship departs South Africa to search for MH370

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A U.S.-based company has dispatched a ship into the Indian Ocean in hopes of quickly resuming the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 if it soon secures a contract to do the job.

The search vessel named Seabed Constructor left the South African port of Durban on Tuesday as part of the Ocean Infinity company's plan to look for debris in the southern Indian Ocean. The ship has unmanned submarines that can descend deep into the ocean.

Ocean Infinity was taking advantage of favorable weather to move the vessel toward "the vicinity of the possible search zone," the company said in a statement.

"This is designed to save time should the contract award

be forthcoming, as hoped," it said. "We will confirm as and when the contract is awarded and the search can resume."

The Malaysian government is negotiating with Ocean Infinity and will make an announcement next week, Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said on Wednesday.

The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 disappeared soon into its flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. The plane was carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew.

The governments of Malaysia, China and Australia called off the 1,046-day official search on Jan. 17 last year. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau's final report on the search conceded that authorities were no closer to knowing the reasons for the plane's disappearance, or its exact location.

Australia ran the original search on behalf of Malaysia because the airliner is thought to have crashed in the vast area of Australian search and rescue responsibility.

New Australian Transport Minister Barnaby Joyce told Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday that the decision on whether to resume the search was Malaysia's.

"I can understand how Malaysians are incredibly driven by finding the wreckage," said Joyce, who became transport minister two weeks ago.

"I have, to be quite frank, some concerns as to whether it will be found," he added.

Search conditions are best during the current southern hemisphere summer, before the colder months bring storm-force winds and mountainous seas.

Focus



US companies see opportunity in exodus from Puerto Rico

BONNIE JO MOUNT/THE WASHINGTON POST
Gretchen Velez, 21, puts on her protective gear for her first day on the floor.

By **CHICO HARLAN**
THE WASHINGTON POST

HURON, S.D.—The airport terminal doors slid open and out came 22 people from Puerto Rico, walking a few weeks ago into the whipping South Dakota wind, not quite ready for what was ahead. One person still wore shorts. Another zipped up a hoodie. The group climbed into three waiting vans.

“You guys good?” asked one of the drivers who would be taking them to their new home. “Does anybody speak English?”

“No,” one person said, and the driver let the van go silent before turning up some country music.

Through the windows, there were miles of emptiness, and Gretchen Velez, 21, looked at the others in the van and was quiet. She’d started the day on an island that was desperately short on electricity and clean water and jobs because of Hurricane Maria. Now, 10 hours later, she was in South Dakota—a place she knew almost nothing about, other than what a job recruiter had told her, that he had a position for her at a turkey processing plant in a rural town nearly 3,000 miles away.

Velez had never left Puerto Rico, but after years of economic crisis and then a natural disaster, almost everybody she

knew was wondering whether they had any choice but to go. By some counts, nearly 2,000 Puerto Ricans were leaving every day, and in that exodus, some mainland U.S. companies were starting to see an opportunity of their own—a new answer in their ever-evolving struggle to find workers who would perform lower-rung American jobs. “Off to my new life,” Velez had told her mother that morning, but now she was wondering: What am I doing here? Is this the right thing?

Another way to ask it: How does someone arrive at such a place in the U.S. workforce? When Velez and the others arrived in Huron after a two-hour ride from the airport, it was after midnight, and on the horizon were the lights of a turkey plant called Dakota Provisions. The temperature had dipped into the 30s, and earlier in the day, fierce wind gusts had carried thousands of white turkey feathers from the plant, scattering them for several miles, onto farmland and road medians, and onto the grounds of a motel where the vans now pulled up. The Puerto Ricans unloaded their luggage, and a Spanish-speaking human-resources employee from the turkey plant passed out keys and showed them to their rooms.

The employee guided Velez and her brother Carlos, along

with a friend who had also come, to a room on the second floor. They stepped inside and looked around. The lights worked. So did the TV. Warm water came out of the bathroom faucet.

Nearly 2,000 Puerto Ricans were leaving every day, and in that exodus, some mainland U.S. companies were starting to see an opportunity of their own—a new answer in their struggle to find workers.

“Everything okay?” the employee asked, and when Velez said “Yes,” he said, “Have a good night.”

Velez pushed her suitcases into the corner and then tried to make the room feel like home, walking over to the thermostat and turning the heat to high.

After the storm

Ten weeks earlier, Velez had been a college student with a part-time job and no plans to leave Puerto Rico. But then the hurricane hit, bringing with it 30 inches of rain and 120 mph winds, and when it was over she had knee-high water in her house and no idea what to do. She had lost her job; the building where she’d

worked was flooded. Her college classes were canceled. The train she used to commute wasn’t running. As the weeks passed, Velez saw only deeper evidence of a place falling apart: long lines for bottled

water; empty grocery shelves; waits at Kmart where residents could charge electronics. To catch phone service, Velez walked toward a cell tower until she had enough of a connection to see the goodbye notes friends were posting on Facebook as they left the island. And then, one day, a different kind of message popped up, posted by her cousin, about an opportunity in South Dakota at a turkey plant where he worked. “Take advantage!” he wrote.

The turkey plant had opened 12 years earlier and since then had grown into one of the largest employers in South Dakota, with more than a thousand workers. It had

also transformed the character of Huron: The starting-level jobs—breast-pullers, carcass-loaders, bird-hangers—rarely attracted anyone from the local workforce, so instead the plant filled with people from all over the world. Soon, a town that had been 97 percent white had four Asian grocery stores and a school district where half the students were learning English as a second language, and at the center of it was a plant in constant need of workers—people who would be ready every morning as trucks dropped off 19,000 live turkeys that would be killed, deboned, sectioned and sliced, and wrapped for restaurants and grocery stores.

For a year, the company had tried recruiting in Puerto Rico, where the economy over a decade had already contracted 10 percent. But then came the hurricane, and in the turkey plant’s HR office, one of the recruiting managers, Oscar Luque, saw news footage of what looked to him like a “Third World country.” He asked Puerto Ricans already at the plant to spread the word that he was coming. He flew to the island with 48 drug-test kits, somehow found a vacant hotel room in San Juan, and waited to see who would show up.

Over the next week, with workers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency still directing traffic,

80 people came from across the island to meet with him. Luque told them about the work—that it was repetitive, physical, “not always pretty.” He told them about the wages—\$10.00 per hour, jumping soon after to \$12 or \$13. He said the company would fly them to South Dakota and slowly deduct the flight costs out of their paychecks. He described the jobs available.

“A good opportunity,” Luque called it, and he offered the job to welders and bartenders and security guards, and then to Velez, who said she would come, and then sold her iPod and a video game console to gather spending cash for the trip.

The morning after she arrived in South Dakota, she opened the motel room curtains and looked outside. Just beyond the parking lot was a baseball field, a restaurant called The Plains and a 28-foot-tall statue of a pheasant, the region’s favorite hunting target. She put on three layers, walked outside and video-chatted with her boyfriend back in Puerto Rico, holding up her phone to show him the view.

“Is that a duck?” he asked when Velez walked up to the bird.

“I don’t think so,” she said, and when they talked again the next day she told him that

See **PUERTO RICO** on Next Page

Off The Wall

Fake highway signs make fun of new California immigration law

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Drivers heading to California saw fake signs decrying a new immigration policy on at least two highways, welcoming them to an “official sanctuary state” that’s home to “felons” and gang members.

State officials removed a sign Tuesday on the Arizona line and another Monday near the Nevada border, Department of Transportation

spokesman Mark Dinger said.

The signs take aim at California’s sanctuary state law that kicked in Jan. 1 and provides greater protections for immigrants living in the state illegally. It limits cooperation between local law enforcement and U.S. immigration authorities.

The law bars police from asking people about their immigration status, but jail of-

ficials can work with federal authorities in some cases. The measure was widely backed by Democrats.

The fake signs appeared just under the official «Welcome to California» markers and referenced the Central American street gang MS-13: «Felons, illegals and MS13 welcome! Democrats need the votes!»

President Donald Trump’s administration has harshly

criticized sanctuary policies and attempted to cut off federal funding to jurisdictions that adopt them.

California passed a state-wide sanctuary policy that took effect with the new year, and cities such as San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia

have adopted them. A federal judge has blocked the effort to halt funding.

The fake signs, made of paper, covered existing signs on Interstate 15 at Mountain Pass, near the California-Nevada border, and along Interstate 40 in Needles, near California’s

border with Arizona.

A similar sign popped up in Malibu last year after it adopted sanctuary city policies.

The state’s transportation department does not allow any unauthorized signs on state rights of way for safety reasons, Dinger said.



RUSSIA GETS SOFT AP

This photo made from the footage taken from a Russian Defense Ministry official website on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018, shows a frame grab from a New Year greeting video with puppies who are raised and trained at a dog breeding center in Knyazhevo, 103 kilometers (64 miles) north of Moscow, Russia. After a year of showing off its military might in Syria, the Defense Ministry has taken a softer approach in a one-minute video showing dozens of puppies sharing food and cuddling with each other. Older dogs are shown playing with unidentified officers.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Rat boards flight at California airport, forces cancellation

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- Alaska Airlines is calling in an exterminator after the company says a rat boarded one of its planes at Oakland International Airport in California and forced it to cancel the flight. The airline says passengers were boarding the Portland, Oregon-bound flight Tuesday when the rat jumped from the jet way onto the plane. Passengers already on board came off, and the plane was taken out of service. Most of the 110 passengers scheduled to take the flight were rebooked on a later flight to Portland. Alaska Airlines says it will resume using the plane when a professional exterminator certifies it is rodent-free. The aircraft will also be inspected for any damage.

California officers save chickens from road

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- It was a race against the cluck as California Highway Patrol officers scrambled to rescue nearly 20 chickens that ran through highway lanes near Los Angeles. The agency says the birds blocked a portion of Interstate 605 in the Norwalk area Tuesday morning after their cage fell from the back of a truck. The agency tweeted photos and video of the chickens on the highway and

a motorcycle officer collecting them. Officers managed to rescue 17 birds. Two died. One tweet asked: “why DID the chickens cross the road? Because they obviously did not want to become ‘fast food’ on an LA area freeway, of course!” The driver transporting the chickens was unaware that the birds fell off the truck and did not stop.

Joker the dog survives 8-day airport, city adventure

DANIA BEACH, Fla. (AP) -- Joker the dog had one heckuva Christmas adventure. Joker’s owner, Summer Burgos, flew him to Florida on Dec. 21 to live with family while she trains in the Navy. As soon as Burgos’ mother-in-law opened the crate at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the 2-year-old Cane Corso bolted past her. For eight days, in a strange city, Joker roamed the streets. On Christmas Eve, the Sun Sentinel reports that Joker was spotted near some shops in Fort Lauderdale. A few days later, a group of neighbors in Dania Beach finally rescued Joker—about 4 miles (6 kilometers) from the airport. Using information from his tags, they got in touch with Burgos. Joker got a checkup at a veterinarian’s office before going home to Burgos’ family, starting another new adventure.

PUERTO RICO

From Page 21

Huron was very cold and quiet, that it was flat, that it had nice houses and also a Salvation Army, where she’d picked up a red winter coat, one that she planned to wear during her shifts inside the plant.

As her first day of work approached, she had so many questions about how life inside the plant would feel. How would the turkeys look? Would she see blood? Could she handle the cold? During two days of orientation—mostly instructions on safety and health—she didn’t once see the work area. It was only on the eve of her first shift, while she was being fitted for rubber boots, that a veteran Puerto Rican employee walked out of the work area and into the break room. He was tall, with a neck tattoo and skinny sideburns, and quickly drew a crowd around him.

“First two weeks, you’ll hurt,” he said. “But you’re coming from Puerto Rico. Put your heart into it. This is your life.”

First day on the plant floor

The next morning, there was

a fresh layer of snow on the ground. At the plant, 19,900 turkeys arrived in trucks and 22 workers clocked in for the first time.

“I’m a little nervous,” her brother said.

“I’m okay,” Velez said.

She’d been assigned to the deboning room, one of about 185 workers standing shoulder to shoulder. She buttoned a white smock over her red jacket, pulled on her rubber boots and walked through two swinging doors, entering a narrow, frigid hallway that led to her work area. In the hallway, she stopped by a booth that provided her the rest of her equipment, and she pulled it on layer by layer—a vinyl apron, a hairnet, protection for her ears and eyes, a pair of cotton gloves, and over that a pair of rubber gloves, and on her right hand a mesh steel glove for protection against cuts.

“All right, let’s go,” a supervisor said, and he led her down the hallway and into a room with high ceilings, bright lights, silver metal surfaces and a temperature set at 36 to 38 degrees.

This was her first time inside the plant. Her eyes darted.

To her right, she saw plucked and headless turkeys arriving into the room on a chute, where workers picked them up and hooked them by their feet to a conveyor belt. She saw the turkeys then move into deeper recesses of the room, where people with knives hacked and disassembled them, separating drumsticks and wings, scapulas and wishbones. Finally, plump pieces of breast meat arrived on conveyors at a table of 16 workers, who used knives and meat hooks to trim a piece every four or five seconds.

Everywhere she looked, she saw people from somewhere else. Only a handful seemed to be local. The people hanging the birds were from Burma. Some of the people trimming the breasts were from Puerto Rico. Deeper in the factory, cutting skin, removing organs, there were people from Cuba and Guatemala and Vietnam. More than a dozen were from Chuuk, an island chain in Micronesia.

A supervisor, from Haiti, led Velez to her station, on what was called the wing line. “Thank you!” Velez said, shouting to him over the noise, and then another worker, from

Puerto Rico, pulled Velez aside and showed her the motion she would make hundreds of times for the rest of the day: picking up a turkey wing from a trough in front of her. Setting it on a white cutting surface. Using a knife, shaped like a small ice-cream scoop, to pull the wing meat away from the bone and then dropping it onto a conveyor belt.

“Try it,” the other worker said, and Velez settled in.

On her first attempt, she fumbled with the knife and missed half the meat. Her second attempt was better, and same with her third. But on her fourth, she dragged the knife into the bone and got stuck. Her fifth, she fought to yank away the skin. The wings were massive and slippery, she thought; she couldn’t figure out how best to hold them. She was a lefty, using a knife designed for righties.

She was on the line with five other workers, and no matter how fast they cut, they couldn’t keep up. Every few minutes, somebody came by with a shovel and dumped more wings into the trough. The trough was never empty, and there was no time to look elsewhere. Velez kept

her head down, eyes on the knife and the cutting space and the wings, grabbing and cutting, grabbing and cutting. She handled a wing every 20 seconds, and then every 18. Flecks of turkey fat flew onto her apron and got matted into her steel glove.

Then, the cold set in. Somehow, she would later say, it seemed to build and build, sinking into her feet and hands, and impossible to shake away. The meat was cold. The knife was cold. Even the ground felt cold, and after hours of cutting, Velez walked gingerly into the break room. “It hurts a little,” she told a more experienced worker, who said, “Oh, yeah, it does.”

She returned to the line. The wings kept coming. She trimmed a wing in 25 seconds, then 22 seconds, then 29. The muscles in her hands kept tightening, and between cuts she bent back her fingers on the table. She adjusted her gloves. She sharpened her knife. She sharpened her knife again.

With 15 minutes to go, she found a last wind. She shook her hands and picked up the wings as quickly as she could—13 seconds, 15 sec-

onds—until another worker looked at the clock and said the day was almost over. Velez cut the meat from one more wing and dropped it onto the belt.

Other workers guided her out of the deboning room, into a cleanup area where she washed bits of turkey flesh and skin from her boots, her rubber gloves, her apron. She said she was exhausted. She said the muscles in her lower legs hurt from standing. She said the muscles in her hand hurt from cutting. She tried to make a fist and couldn’t. “I’m just so tired,” she said.

She walked slowly toward the turkey plant’s exit and, while waiting for the other workers to filter out, sat in a chair and dropped her head on a table. Her first day as a worker in South Dakota was over. The next morning, her alarm would ring at 5 a.m.

“I need to get some sleep,” she said, but for now, all she wanted to do was get a ride back to the motel. She wanted to get back to Puerto Rico eventually, but here, for her, was opportunity—the chance to stand under a hot shower for as long as it took to take away the chill of the day.

Science & Technology

Efforts grow to help students evaluate what they see online

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—Alarmed by the proliferation of false content online, state lawmakers around the country are pushing schools to put more emphasis on teaching students how to tell fact from fiction. Lawmakers in several states



Alarmed by the proliferation of false content online, state lawmakers around the country are pushing schools to put more emphasis on teaching students how to tell fact from fiction.

foreign sources.

“Five years ago, it was difficult to get people to understand what we were doing and what we wanted to see happen in education and the skills students needed to learn,” said Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, executive director of the National Association for Media Literacy Education. “Now there is no question about the vitalness of this in classrooms.”

A study published last year by Stanford University researchers also brought the issue into focus. It warned that students from middle school to college were “easily duped” and ill-equipped to use reason with online information.

The researchers warned that “democracy is threatened by the ease at which disinformation about civic issues is allowed to spread and flourish.”

In June, Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy signed a bill establishing an advisory council to develop recommendations that will include instructing students on evaluating what they see and read online.

Jennifer Rocca, a high school librarian in Brookfield, Connecticut, was among several supporters who urged lawmakers to pass the legislation.

Her digital literacy course, a requirement for freshmen, challenges students to evaluate the credibility of online sources so they can spot falsehoods and biased information. She requires students to cite their sources when conducting research and explain why each would have the authority to be credible.

Without stronger statewide standards, Rocca said she worries that some school districts will not do enough to develop skills that are critical for students and society.

“You should be expected to navigate the internet and evaluate the information no matter where you go to school,” she said.

Many of the state bills are based on model legislation backed by a coalition of groups, including Media Literacy Now and the Digital Citizenship Institute. Advocates say the laws are a good first step that must be paired with updates to teacher education programs, funding for professional development and other changes throughout the education system.

The efforts have run into concerns about school funding shortfalls, and supporters say they are mindful of adding mandates on districts and teachers. That’s why the laws have so far stopped short of dictating changes and instead called for voluntary actions.

How to back up a PC that stores data in solid-state memory

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: My PC’s SSD (solid-state drive, memory chips that replace a hard drive) has been scrambled. That means I’ll have to erase it and reload Windows 7, my programs and my 900 gigabytes of data—a time-consuming process.

I’d like to avoid doing this again if I have another SSD failure. Is there an easy way to regularly back up my entire SSD—not just my data files—to my 6-terabyte external hard drive?

A: Yes, you can do what’s called a “system image” backup. It will copy everything from your PC’s solid-state drive—the operating system, data, programs and settings—and put them into a single large backup file that can be stored on your external hard drive. If your SSD data becomes corrupted again, you can restore its contents from the most recent backup file.

Although system image backups were originally designed to copy the contents of a hard drive, (a rapidly spinning magnetic disk), they work the same way with SSDs (made up of flash memory chips.) You can even use the same software to make the backups. For lists of such programs, see tinyurl.com/y77ngbwf or tinyurl.com/p4zxx2j (scroll to option three).

How often you should make backups is a matter of judgment. But because you have a high-capacity, 6-terabyte (equals 6,144 gigabytes) external hard drive, you can easily make several system image backups over time without running out of storage. The data in a system image backup is digitally compressed, so it should take up about 30 percent less space on the external hard drive than it did on the SSD.

Cold weather tip: If you use a smartphone in cold weather, remember the lithium-ion batteries inside them start to lose their ability to produce electric current at below-freezing temperatures. That can cause the phone to shut off for lack of power, even if its battery is fully charged. My iPhone 7 shut off after 15 minutes of exposure to outdoor temperatures of about 10 degrees. When the phone was revived indoors, its battery was still charged to 73 percent of capacity.

Q: The iTunes program I’ve been using since 2012 will no longer properly print song playlists for CD case inserts, or burn playlists to CDs. Instead it prints or burns a different playlist than the one I selected. What can I do?

A: If you haven’t updated iTunes since 2012, the problem may be that it no longer works with the Windows updates you’ve received over the last five years. You can download the latest version of iTunes at tinyurl.com/bux3blh (to find out whether you need the 32-bit or 64-bit version, go to your PC’s Control Panel, click the “system” icon and see “system type.”)

If you already have the newest version of iTunes, the problem may be caused by a software flaw that only Apple can fix. But try this workaround: Don’t use the “file” menu to burn a playlist to a CD. Instead, highlight the playlist, then right-click it. From the resulting menu, select “burn playlist to disk.” To print a playlist for a plastic CD case (or “jewel case”), first highlight the playlist, then go to “file” and click “print.” Then select “CD jewel case insert” and click “OK.”

have introduced or passed bills calling on public school systems to do more to teach media literacy skills that they say are critical to democracy. The effort has been bipartisan but has received little attention despite successful legislation in Washington state, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Mexico.

Several more states are expected to consider such bills in the coming year, including Arizona, New York and Hawaii.

“I don’t think it’s a partisan issue to appreciate the

importance of good information and the teaching of tools for navigating the information environment,” said Hans Zeiger, a Republican state senator in Washington who co-sponsored a bill that passed in his state earlier this year. “There is such a thing as an objective source versus other kinds of sources, and that’s an appropriate thing for schools to be teaching.”

Advocates say the K-12 curriculum has not kept pace with rapid changes in technology. Studies show many children

spend hours every day online but struggle to comprehend the content that comes at them.

For years, they have pushed schools to incorporate media literacy—including the ability to evaluate and analyze sources of information—into lesson plans in civics, language arts, science and other subjects.

Their efforts started getting traction after the 2016 presidential election, which highlighted how even many adults can be fooled by false and misleading content peddled by agenda-driven domestic and



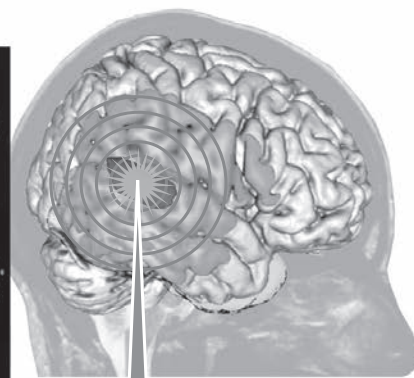
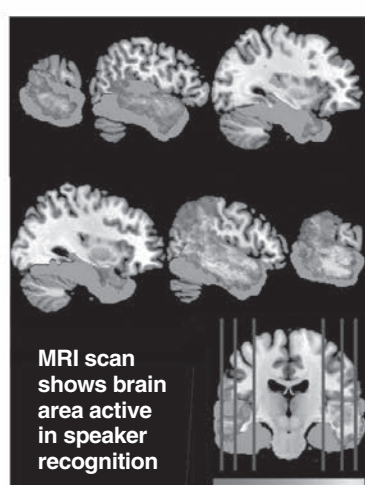
How we can tell who is speaking

Until now, scientists could not agree on exactly which regions in the brain allow us to recognize voices and identify who is speaking.

‘Voice blindness’ (phonagnosia) is the inability to recognize voices

The condition, often following a stroke, was studied in the new research

58 people with this rare disorder were tested for psychological causes and by imaging their brains



Damage or disease in parts of the right posterior temporal lobe — an area above the right ear — causes difficulties recognizing voices, the researchers found

Source: Claudia Rosswandowitz of the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Keeping up the Kardashians, 2.0: A primer on the next gen

NEW YORK (AP)—They Dream. They Reign. One points North and another is a Saint.

We're talking about the Kardashians 2.0 and their numbers are rising on the regular as the reality TV and makeup mogul family of Ks and Jenners gets busy with a baby boom.

The only ones in the multi-million-dollar matriarchy not interested in procreating at the moment seem to be momager Kris Jenner, who is 62 and has plenty of kids, thank you, and supermodel Kendall Jenner, a 22-year-old whirlwind of runway, editorial and other work that has her traveling practically non-stop.

Kendall's little sister Kylie Jenner had yet to confirm whether she's pregnant with rapper Travis Scott amid rumors the two are yo-yoing, on again-off again style. But OG older sib Kim Kardashian West, who launched them all with a sex tape a decade ago, has been sharing for weeks about her third child with rapper Kanye West. Their No. 3 is expected soon via surrogate after potentially life-threatening complications with Kim's two pregnancies.

The most recent baby bombshell came from Khloe Kardashian, who just days before Christmas posted a sweet black-and-white belly shot

on Instagram with basketball boyfriend Tristan Thompson that served as their announcement, earning more than 8 million likes.

Oldest sister Kourtney was swept into the is-she-PG vortex early on and has mentioned on "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" more than once that she'd like to add at least one child to her existing three with ex but never married to baby daddy Scott Disick.

This time around, it appears Kourt—the pettiest Kardashian—might have merely eaten a large meal at some point or gone through photo editing heck on social media at the hands of creepy

bump watchers.

So what about all those second-gen little ones already on this planet? Their numbers have grown, so while we're waiting for the next round here's a little primer of who belongs to whom:

ROB KARDASHIAN'S DREAM

Between all those photos promoting his sock line on Twit-

ter, bro Rob has been a prolific dad machine of adorable snaps of his baby daughter Dream Renee, born Nov. 10, 2016, to Blac Chyna. Aside: Blac Chyna has an older son, King Cairo, with rapper Tyga, the former significant other of Kylie. Further aside: Rob and Blac Chyna are no longer together and never married.

KIM KARDASHIAN'S TWO

Trump blasts Bannon over book, says ex-aide 'lost his mind'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump launched a scathing attack on former top adviser Steve Bannon on Wednesday, responding to a new book that portrays Trump as an undisciplined man-child who didn't actually want to win the White House and quotes Bannon as calling his son's contact with a Russian lawyer "treasonous."

Hitting back via a formal White House statement rather

than a more-typical Twitter volley, Trump insisted Bannon had little to do with his victorious campaign and "has nothing to do with me or my Presidency."

"When he was fired, he not only lost his job, he lost his mind," Trump said.

It was a blistering attack against the man who helped deliver the presidency to Trump. It was spurred by an unflattering new book by writer Michael

Wolff that paints Trump as a leader who doesn't understand the weight of the presidency and spends his evenings eating cheeseburgers in bed, watching television and talking on the phone to old friends.

Later Wednesday, Trump attorney Charles Harder threatened legal action against Bannon over "disparaging statements and in some cases outright defamatory statements."

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Gadot, Ronan, Janney join Golden Globes black dress protest

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Gal Gadot, Saoirse Ronan, Mary J. Blige and Allison Janney will be dressed in black at Sunday's Golden Globe Awards as part of a planned anti-harassment protest, and all four voiced their support for a new initiative, Time's Up, that's aimed at supporting women who bring complaints.

"I am one of those women, so, you know, I don't want to go into detail about that and I haven't, but I am, and I stand with those women. I champion them," Blige said Tuesday

at the Palm Springs International Film Festival awards.

Blige, who earned a Globe nomination for her supporting role in "Mudbound," said the Time's Up campaign and the wear-black protest are important "because there's so many women that don't get a chance to speak in other industries that are not the film industry, the music industry. It's important for us to stand up for them so they can get a chance to speak."

Janney isn't sure what dress she'll wear, but she's certain it will be black.

"I think that will be really powerful," she said. "I will be in a black dress and be proud to be standing there with the other actresses."

Janney, a supporting actress nominee for "I, Tonya," also stands with Reese Witherspoon, Shonda Rhimes, Jennifer Aniston and hundreds of other Hollywood women who formed the Time's Up coalition, launched Monday with an open letter vowing support for women in the entertainment business and beyond—janitors to health care workers.



STOLEN JEWELS

Some jewels are on display at the 'Treasures of the Mughals and the Maharajahs' exhibition, at Venice's Doge's Palace, in Venice, Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018. News reports say thieves stole precious Indian jewels from the famed Al Thani Collection that were on exhibit, the thieves grabbed a golden, jeweled brooch and a pair of earrings Wednesday and escaped by blending in with the crowd and delaying the triggering of the alarm.

AP

Whole family's safety is put at risk by domestic violence

DEAR ABBY: I grew up watching my mom being abused by her husband. It was terrible. Unfortunately, he eventually murdered her. She was only 36. I was 16 at the time, and although it has taken almost 30 years, I have finally found peace.

My message is to people who are currently experiencing abuse. No one deserves to be battered physically, mentally or emotionally. When people suffer from addiction (alcohol, drugs, etc.), they can get help only when they are ready. However, with domestic violence, the victims must consider not only themselves, but also their children. If you are a victim of domestic violence, PLEASE get out and get help.

HEALED IN GEORGIA

DEAR HEALED: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother at such a tender age. In her memory, I will again print the phone number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. It is (800) 799-7233. There is a separate TTY number for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It's (800) 787-3224. Its website is thehotline.org. Help is available if victims recognize they need it and reach out.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I enjoy weekly massages from a popular self-employed masseuse. I have a standing appointment. If I cancel within 24 hours, I understand that I must pay her. However, if I

give her more notice, must I still give her some remuneration? We have never discussed it.

I feel bad about canceling, as she may rely on this income, but it's difficult to pay for the event that requires me to cancel in addition to a massage that didn't happen. What would you do?

UNSURE IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNSURE: Your masseuse has a 24-hour cancellation policy so when clients can't keep the appointment, she can fill in the time with someone else. Most personal service professionals understand that from time to time appointments must be skipped or changed.

Because you are worried about her, talk with her about it and ask if she can slot you in at a different time if there's a schedule conflict. It would be a win-win. She'll get the money, and you will still have your weekly massage, which, clearly, is important to you or you wouldn't have a standing appointment.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am worried about my best friend. She never eats at school, and I don't think she's eating at home either. She's beginning to get weak. Yesterday we were playing ball in P.E., and when she caught the ball, I saw her wince. I asked her if she was OK, and she said yes, but I'm still wor-

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ried. What should I do?

SCARED FOR HER

DEAR SCARED: Talk to your P.E. teacher about the fact that you are worried about your friend and why. She may not be eating because she thinks she needs to lose weight. Or she may have a serious eating disorder. The teacher will know what to do. Please don't wait.

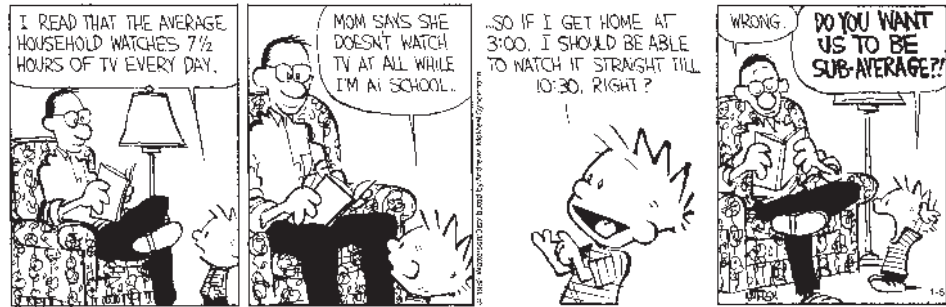
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

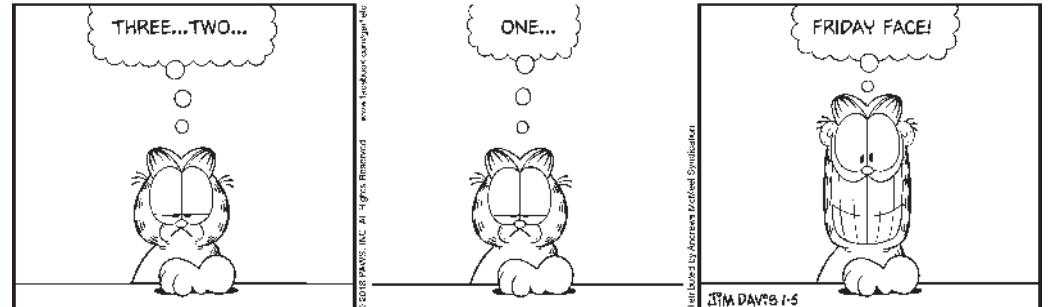
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Golfer Ernie
4 Teensy bit
8 Tackled weeds
12 Zodiac cat
13 Biblical pronoun
14 Leer at
15 Stravinsky ballet, with "The"
17 Phone inventor
18 Printer's blue
19 Ryan or Tatum
20 Tennis great Chris
22 Venus de —
24 Swampy terrain
25 Backyard basin for sparrows
29 Mineral suffix
30 Track events
31 Bill's partner

DOWN

32 Unique person
34 PC picture
35 One of the Jackson 5
36 Fire sign?
37 Lomond and Ness
40 Use an old phone
41 "That's — ask"
42 Avian sound
46 United nations
47 Teen fave
48 Uno + uno
49 Easy targets

16 Roches-ter's love
19 Early auto-maker
20 Qatar's ruler
21 "La Dolce —"
22 Itty-bitty
23 Angered
25 Lure
26 Award
27 Grabbed
28 Sharpen
30 Baseball stats
33 Morals
34 Apple computer
36 Move laterally
37 Research sites
38 Earthen pot
39 Hoofbeat sound
40 Let fall
42 Crib
43 Actress Lupino
44 Chaney of horror films
45 "Acid"

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	S	G	E	E	I	B	S	P
U	R	S	A	R	E	L	H	L	A
T	G	I	F	I	R	E	I	Z	O
T	O	F	F	E	C	H	E	Z	
			R	I	G	H	T	O	F
W	A	G	O	N	A	H		O	L
A	N	O	N	A	V	A	C	R	O
I	N	G	F	L	O	A	R	D	E
F	E	E	T	O	F	C	L	A	Y
			T	I	F	R	A	S	P
T	A	T	A	E	A	L	T	A	J
A	M	E	R	D	I	D	I	S	L
N	O	R	A	O	L	E	C	E	L

Yesterday's answer 1-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: January Jones, 40; Bradley Cooper, 43; Carrie Ann Inaba, 50; Diane Keaton, 72.

Happy Birthday: A steady pace will help you reach your goals. Put quality before quantity and don't feel the need to rush when detail and precision count. You may feel impatient at times, but making sure everything is up to your standards will far outweigh a faulty outcome. Test the waters mentally, physically and emotionally before you take a leap of faith. Your numbers are 6, 14, 18, 24, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make amends with anyone you haven't been getting along with lately. It takes two to tango, and this time it's best to be the one who is capable of sorting out differences and offering solutions. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for a way to please someone you love. Listen attentively and offer something special that will bring you closer to others. Love and romance are highlighted and will have a positive impact on your personal life and future. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen to reason and stick to your budget. You may want to make financial or personal changes that affect your home or the way you live, but caution will be necessary to avoid unnecessary spending. Physical changes are highlighted. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll come up with innovative ideas that can help you adjust the way you use your

skills. A new position that is different from anything you've done in the past will motivate you to work hard. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Money matters will be of concern. Check your spending habits and overhead and you'll find a way to cut corners and loosen up your available cash. Generosity will be your demise. You can't buy love or respect. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and participate in something that will lead to personal gains. Listen and observe, and you'll be offered alternate ways to use your skills, intuition and connections. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A change in the way you handle important relationships will help you gain respect. Use your intelligence and offer incentives that will get others to pick up the slack and help you reach the goals you have set. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change in the way you handle your professional affairs may be questionable by some, but if you have done your due diligence, you should follow through with your plans. Altering your course can be good if it is done with precision. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be realistic when making plans with friends or relatives. It's best to look at the expenses involved before you agree to participate. Focus on personal growth and inner awareness, not how you can change others. Do your own thing. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A sound investment can be made. Do your research and figure out the best way to get the best returns. A chance to resolve a legal or contractual matter looks promising. Act on your own behalf. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Offering to help friends or relatives will give you a sense of belonging and put you in a good position when you need a favor in return. Make your motives clear and your assistance worthwhile. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be clear about what you want, the way you feel and what you plan to do. A steady pace and an open mind will encourage others to take note and offer their support and help. Love and romance will improve your personal life. ★★★

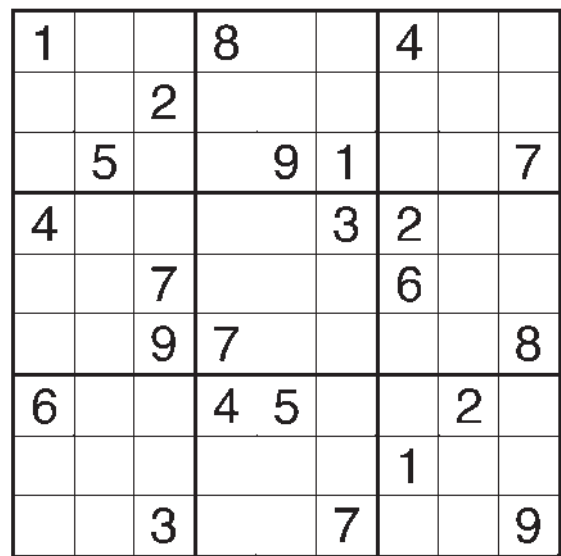
Birthday Baby: You are insightful, persistent and inventive. You are powerful and productive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

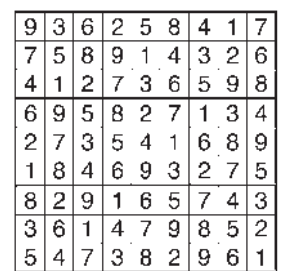


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: ★★

1/04

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROBERT GUILLAUME (1927-2017)

Solution: 6 letters

B S L D L L K D R A H Y P S C
R T E O A I K W A M I N A M O
O A H O N O O G U Y S L O E M
A G C G D N O A Y B I L S T E
D E A M I F B M M E O I L E D
W R R R E N A E R W B R E O Y
A E E N O L O M A I U D N R D
Y M L A N T I I I L D N E E S
R E T E P S C S S L A A L T I
L M U L S I J A S I Y M R T U
I B B O R O S O K A V O A E O
F E U T K E V I N M P E M N L
E R A E J A F F E S N E L A T
I P E C A A S I J A C Q U E S
S U P E R F L Y E C I O V J T

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1/5

Actor, Army, Book, Broadway, Butler, Comedy, Dolls, Donna, DuBois, Family, Free, Game, Good, Guys, Isaac, Jacques, Jaffe, Jeanette, Joke, Kevin, King, Kwamina, Land, Lean, Life, Lion, Mandrill, Marlene, Melissa, Meteor, Missouri, Night, Patricia, Peter, Rachel, Rafiki, Remember, Soap, Sports, Spy Hard, Stage, St. Louis, Super Fly, Tale, Television, Voice, Williams

Yesterday's Answer: James Corden

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STUMPED?

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

well done!
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APARTMENT FOR RENT

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One bedroom apartment, fully furnished, \$375/month, not including utilities.

Please contact 783-0575 or 285-8738
Email to kxyzhang1@hotmail.com

Century Tours Inc. dba Century Tours invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Operations Manager, Tours (1)
College or Associate's degree in Management, Travel and Tour or any related field. At least three (3) years of progressive management experience in tour and travel operations is required. Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Operations Manager, Retail (1)
High School Diploma or a GED. At least two (2) years of prior related supervisory or managerial experience in a retail environment. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Business Development Director (1)
Bachelor's degree in Management, Travel and Tour, or any related field. Fluency in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages is preferred as incumbent must be able and willing to travel between China and Saipan to serve as a liaison. Must be able and willing to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Accountant (3)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Tour Sales Representative (17)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (4)
High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (2)
High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

Inventory Assistant (2)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Sales Associate, full-time (5)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

Sales Associate, part-time (4)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred.

To be considered, applications must be submitted **not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Century Tours Inc. Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Arriola, Cowan & Arriola

seeks an associate attorney who is an active member in good standing with the Guam Bar. Applicants must possess excellent research and writing skills, superior communication and organizational skills, and a strong commitment to client services.

Please email a letter of interest and resume to:
arriolalaw@arriolacowan.com

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor, Bottega Veneta (1)
High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Sales Associate (5)
High School Diploma or a GED with prior work experience in luxury retail sales. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards with or without using a trolley. Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Familiarity with the POS System is preferred. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Inventory Planner (1)
High School Diploma or GED with at least six (6) months retail experience and at least three (3) months of prior receiving, stocking and inventory experience. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Knowledge on the following equipment: POS terminal, photocopier/facsimile machine, and other items as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. Must be able to lift at least 15 pound items and carry it for at least 100 yards, with or without using a trolley, and move up to 50 pound items using a trolley. Must be able to drive Company provided vehicles. Must be able to bend, kneel, crouch, or crawl in awkward positions. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. dba Saipan Adventures invites qualified U.S. worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Tour Sales Representative (2)
High School Diploma or GED with a minimum of six (6) months to one (1) year experience in travel or tour operation, sales or service related field. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes. Preferred Fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese languages.

Accounting Assistant (2)
High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Customer Service Agent (2)
High School Diploma or GED with at least two (2) months work experience in travel/tour operation or sales or service based work environment, room reservations and vendor relations. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office applications (Excel, MS Word, Outlook, Power Point). Preferably fluent in both written and oral communication in the English and Chinese (Mandarin) languages. Able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Able to drive tourists safely through various tour routes.

Customer Service Supervisor (3)
High School Diploma or GED. At least one (1) to two (2) years of related supervisory experience in a luxury retail environment. Must have the knowledge and computer skills to handle the POS register and other operations and communication systems.

To be considered, applications must be submitted **not later than 5:00 PM on January 10, 2018.** Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Saipan Adventures Inc. Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Front Desk Clerk

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Must be well organized and professional
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must have knowledge of clerical and administrative procedures and systems such as filing and record keeping
- Must be able to operate standard office equipment such as printers, fax and copier machines
- Knowledge of invoicing procedure & automated processing is a Plus
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village - Saipan.
Deadline of submission is on January 9, 2018.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI. Police and Court Clearance required and pre-employment drug testing is mandatory.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Building Maintenance

- Must be able to perform general cleaning & maintenance of an office & warehouse
- Must be able to perform general yard maintenance
- Should posses skills related to carpentry & plumbing
- Welding, HVAC, Masonry & Electrical skills are a Plus
- Must be well organized and professional
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village - Saipan.
Deadline of submission is on January 12, 2018.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI. Police and Court Clearance required and pre-employment drug testing is mandatory.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2017

Opening date: January 3, 2018 Closing date: January 19, 2018

Positions: (5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on January 19, 2018.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or evelyn.sablan@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



Aqua Resort Club Saipan is currently seeking enthusiastic individuals with a positive attitude and a passion for service to join our dynamic, customer-focused team.

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Electrician
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F&B Supervisor
Front Desk Supervisor (Night Shift)
Reservations Officer
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All applicants interested in joining our team, please submit your application and resume to our Human Resources office via email hradmin@aquaresortsaipan.com or contact +1 (670) 322-1234

Aqua Resort Club, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer & a Drug-Free Workplace.





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9818 • Facsimile (670) 236-9702
Website: www.justice.gov.mp



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 18-07 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary Range: Location: Opening Date: 10/26/2017	Community Supervision Provider Drug Court Division \$28,000 - \$30,000 CNMI Judiciary, Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled
Announcement No. 18-11 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary Range: Location: Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Deputy Clerk I Superior Court, Clerk of Court \$20,485 – \$22,500 Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled
Announcement No. 18-08 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary Range: Location: Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Administrative / HR Specialist Judiciary Administrative Office \$23,000 - \$25,000 Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled
Announcement No. 18-09 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary Range: Location: Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Program Specialist Judiciary Administrative Office \$28,000 - \$30,000 Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled
Announcement No. 18-06 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary : Location: Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Deputy Marshal I Marshal Services Division \$20,000 Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled
Announcement No. 18-12 POSITION TITLE: Department: Annual Salary : Location: Opening Date: 12/29/2017	Records Assistant Superior Court, Clerk of Court \$20,000 Saipan Closing Date: Until Filled

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

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Saints defense bracing for first test vs Panthers' Olsen



METAIRIE, La. (AP)—When Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore

finished reviewing game video of the latest performance by New Orleans' defense, he came away unimpressed, but not discouraged.

"We didn't get up for that game and that's on us. We know we've got to step it up," Lattimore said after practice Wednesday, as the Saints prepared for their postseason clash on Sunday with Carolina. "It's the playoffs, so that's in the past. We're going to get the job done. We didn't lose our confidence at all. We're good. We're going to get up for this game for sure."

Lattimore and fellow Saints defenders not only have to address their recent backsliding as a unit, but also for the presence of star Carolina tight end Greg Olsen, who didn't play in either of these teams' previous two meetings this season.

"You're talking about one of the better tight ends in the game. Not having him is significant and having him is huge," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "He's smart. He's tough. He blocks for the run. He enjoys competing and quite honestly, he does so many little things well in regards to zone or man, that third down or red zone—pick a situation—it's just significant."

Olsen missed nine games with a foot injury this season. He played in Carolina's last four regular season games, with as many as nine receptions in one game.

"We do some things with Greg that we didn't get a chance to do when he wasn't with us," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said. "Gregg's a pass-



catching threat, a good route runner, got good hands."

He has just 17 catches for 191 yards and one touchdown this season, and had only one reception in Carolina's loss to Atlanta last week.

Still, Saints defenders expect Olsen to be a factor in a win-or-go-home playoff game.

"Him and Cam have timing together, chemistry," Saints safety Vonn Bell said. "He knows the offense. He's a (former) Pro Bowler. He knows how to use his body" to keep defenders from getting to the ball in flight.

"We just know he's a passing threat," Bell added.

The Saints improved from 27th defensively overall to 15th this season. They also enjoyed considerable increases in sacks, from 30 to 42, and interceptions, from 9 to 20.

Yet a 31-24 loss at Tampa Bay in the regular season finale "left a bad taste in everyone's mouth," Payton said.

AP
New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara (41) runs over Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive back Robert McClain (36) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, in Tampa, Fla.

The Saints' defense gave up 455 total yards in Tampa Bay. The Bucs converted 13 of 18 third downs and their lone fourth-down attempt. If not for three interceptions—one by linebacker Craig Robertson and two by rookie safety Marcus Williams, the Saints might have struggled just to keep it close.

"We've got a fire lit up un-

der us to come out here and play the way we know we're capable of playing," defensive tackle Tyeler Davison said. "Our details weren't exactly on point like they need to be that last game."

The Bucs gained 110 yards rushing and had two receivers go over 100 yards, including Chris Godwin, who caught a go-ahead, 39-yard touchdown pass with 9 seconds left.

"Definitely sour to end it with not our best performance of the year by far," Saints defensive tackle Sheldon Rankins said. "But the beauty of this is we get another shot, and this time it really means something."

UCLA QB Rosen to enter draft, maybe No. 1 pick

LOS ANGELES (AP)—UCLA quarterback Josh Rosen is skipping his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

Rosen made the expected announcement Wednesday with a post on Twitter. He is expected to be a high first-round pick in April.

Rosen has been the Bruins' starting quarterback for the past three seasons, playing in 30 total games after missing half of his sophomore year with injuries. He passed for 9,301 yards with 59 touchdown passes and 26 interceptions.

He was close to fired UCLA coach Jim Mora, but discussed his decision with new Bruins coach Chip Kelly.

In his statement, Rosen says that attending UCLA was "the best decision of my life." He also promises his mother that he'll return to Westwood to finish his degree.

Southern California quar-

terback Sam Darnold will skip his final two seasons of eligibility to also enter the NFL draft.

Darnold made the expected announcement in an Instagram video Wednesday.

About 25 minutes earlier, UCLA quarterback Josh Rosen announced he will enter the draft. Both local products are expected to be high first-round selections in April.

Darnold took over as the Trojans' starting quarterback four games into last season as a redshirt freshman. He won the Rose Bowl in his first season with a record 453-yard, five-touchdown performance against Penn State, and he led the Trojans to their first Pac-12 championship since 2008 this season.

Darnold passed for 7,229 yards with 57 touchdown passes and 22 interceptions in 27 games behind center for the Trojans.

New year on PGA Tour can't start soon enough for players



KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Dustin Johnson sat outside the Honolulu Store on the first day of the new year,

scarfing down the "Hobo Breakfast" of steamed rice and eggs as the sun was just starting to filter through the Cook pines that line the entrance to Kapalua.

He abruptly closed the lid on his carton and announced, "Let's go."

That about sums up the anticipation of the start to a new year in golf.

Johnson is No. 1 in the world, a 33-year-old entering his prime who won four times last year. Right behind him in the world ranking are Jordan

Spieth, Justin Thomas, Jon Rahm and Hideki Matsuyama, four players 25 or younger.

Still to come: another return of Tiger Woods, this time with strong indications that he is healthy again.

"I think this year, the unknowns are very exciting," Spieth said. "I think with the amount of depth and talent at a younger age, mixed with the guys in their 30s that are playing—No. 1 in the world, D.J.—some other phenomenal players that you would call in maybe in their prime, and then obviously the major question, which is what's it going to be like with Tiger coming back ... it's a pretty special time to be a part of professional golf."

The Sentry Tournament

of Champions is reserved for those who did something special last year—win on the PGA Tour.

Even though Johnson, Spieth, Thomas and Matsuyama are among those who won multiple times last year, winning is not getting any easier. Only nine players who were at Kapalua a year ago made it back to paradise, and 14 players in the 34-man field are making their debut this week.

Thomas is the defending champion, courtesy of an 8-iron from 214 yards that settled 3 feet away for birdie on the 17th hole that secured his three-shot victory and sent him on his way to a season that ended with his first major (PGA Championship) and be-

ing voted PGA Tour player of the year.

The encore is never easy.

"I think the hardest part is going to be staying in the moment and recognizing that it's a new year," Thomas said as last year was ending. "It's a new opportunity for great things, and I just need to continue to work hard."

Spieth knows the feeling. He won five times in 2015, including the Masters and U.S. Open and close calls in the other two majors. He started the following year with an eight-shot victory at Kapalua, but then won only one more time the rest of the year.

So if Thomas wants any advice on how to handle the higher profile, he can always

check with his longtime friend. And he already has.

"I was able to—I hope—share just a couple of insights that maybe I wasn't prepared for that could have helped me, not necessarily on the golf course but more in just blocking stuff out and staying focused," Spieth said.

Spieth didn't share details of their conversation, though he revealed some advice he took last year during a critical juncture in his season, if not his young career.

It came from an excerpt in Theodore Roosevelt's "Citizenship in a Republic" speech delivered in Paris in 1910.

Spieth, who takes pride in being a good closer, still couldn't shake the memory

of losing a five-shot lead on the back nine of the Masters in 2016. He thought about it again during the final round of the British Open, where a three-shot lead in the final round turned into a one-shot deficit with five holes to play. He answered with three birdies and an eagle over the next four holes to capture the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

"The British Open, it just did wonders for me individually," Spieth said. "And not only my view of myself, but my view on being the man in the arena. I'm the one that's out there, that's putting it on the line every single week. I'm going to fail and learn and I'm going to succeed, but I'm the one in the arena."

Curry's triple lifts Warriors over Mavericks



DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks were left shaking their heads at Stephen Curry's shot-making ability and how they let him get one last great look at the basket.

Curry's long 3-pointer with three seconds to play allowed the Golden State Warriors to escape with a 125-122 win over the Mavericks on Wednesday night after blowing a double-digit lead in the final four minutes.

On their final possession, the Warriors gave Curry the inbounds pass. A crossover dribble and a screen from Draymond Green were all he needed to get a clean look from 28 feet, which hit nothing but net. Dallas, with a foul to give, didn't take it.

"Too open of a look for a game-winner for the greatest shooter in the game," long-time Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki said.

Curry finished with 32 points and has 70 in two games since returning from an ankle injury. Golden State's "Big Four" combined for 100 points, and the Warriors needed every one of them against a Mavericks team that had won four straight.

"Draymond set a great screen," Curry said. "I caught Yogi (Ferrell) by surprise and was able to get to my spot and knock it down. I have confidence to take the shot and make it and finish the game."

Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson had 25 points each, and Green added 18 to go with 10 rebounds.

Celtics 102, Cavaliers 88

In Boston, Terry Rozier scored 20 points in 20 minutes, steal-

ing the spotlight from LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Isaiah Thomas in a rematch of the Eastern Conference finals and leading the Boston Celtics to a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Rozier scored the last eight Boston points of the first quarter to give the Celtics an 11-point lead, and had another eight in a row midway through the fourth when they expanded the lead to 21. Marcus Smart and Jayson Tatum had 15 points apiece, and Irving and Al Horford each had 11 points and nine rebounds to help Boston to its fourth straight win.

James had 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Tristan Thompson had 10 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which lost for the fourth time in five games.

76ers 112, Spurs 106

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid shook off a sprained right hand that nearly kept him out of the lineup to score 21 points, grab 11 rebounds and lead Philadelphia past San Antonio.

The 76ers snapped a 12-game losing streak to the Spurs. They needed all 35 minutes from Embiid to knock off short-handed San Antonio.

Embiid was injured in a hard fall Saturday against the Suns. Philadelphia's leading scorer and rebounder sat at his locker before the game and said his hand was swollen and he couldn't shoot.

Embiid used a soft touch to sink a couple of shots during pregame drills, and that was enough to convince the Sixers he could play.

Rockets 116, Magic 98

In Orlando, Gerald Green scored 27 points, Clint Capela had 21 points and eight



AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives against Dallas Mavericks guard Yogi Ferrell (11) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018.

tetokounmpo had 31 points and 10 rebounds, Khriston Middleton added 27 points and Milwaukee pulled away from Indiana.

Antetokounmpo had his way around the rim with his usual array of dunks and layups, shooting 12 of 18. He secured his 18th double-double of the season with 1:01 left in the third quarter and was rested for the entire fourth.

Pelicans 108, Jazz 98

In Salt Lake City, Anthony Davis had 29 points and 15 rebounds to lead New Orleans past Utah.

Jrue Holiday carried the offense early with 18 first-half points and finished with 24 for the Pelicans. DeMarcus Cousins added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Donovan Mitchell led the Jazz with 24 points, and Joe Johnson scored 20 off the bench.

Nuggets 134, Suns 111

In Denver, Gary Harris scored 28 of his 36 points in the first half and Denver used a big third quarter to beat Phoenix.

Harris tied his career high in points, finishing 14 of 17 from the field. Nikola Jokic added 14 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to help the Nuggets stop a two-game slide and improve to 13-4 at home this season.

Wilson Chandler scored 17 points, Trey Lyles had 16 and Jamal Murray 13.

rebounds and Houston got by without NBA scoring leader James Harden, routing Orlando.

Harden was sidelined by a strained left hamstring.

Green made his first five 3-point shots and finished 7 for 10 from behind the arc for the Rockets, who were never behind and led by as many as 28 late in the third quarter.

Wizards 121, Knicks 103

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 27 points, John Wall added 25 with nine assists and Washington beat New York.

Playing for the first time since he was selected Eastern Conference player of the week, Beal followed his 39-point outburst on Sunday by hitting 11 of his 14 field goal attempts for Washington, which was won five of six.

Marcin Gortat had a season-high 21 points, shooting 9 of

10 from the field.

Heat 111, Pistons 104

In Miami, Kelly Olynyk scored 25 points, including a big layup with 39 seconds left, and Goran Dragic added 24 as Miami held off Detroit.

Olynyk finished with 13 rebounds and Dragic had 13 assists for the Heat, who are three games over .500 for the first time since April 2016.

Josh Richardson scored 22 for Miami, which shot 51 percent and outscored the Pistons 51-27 from 3-point range.

Nets 98, Timberwolves 97

In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie made the go-ahead jumper with 9.7 seconds left and tied his career high with 26 points, leading Brooklyn over Minnesota.

Jimmy Butler missed at the buzzer as the Timberwolves lost for just the second time in

nine games.

Dinwiddie added nine assists as the Nets improved to 2-0 in the new year—more wins than they had all last January, when they were 1-15. Joe Harris came off the bench to score 17 points.

Raptors 124, Bulls 115

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan had 35 points and Delon Wright set career highs with 25 points and 13 rebounds as Toronto beat Chicago.

DeRozan came up big again after scoring a franchise-record 52 points in a win over Milwaukee on New Year's Day. Held to nine in the first half this time, he scored 18 in the third quarter. He also shot 5 of 8 on 3-pointers and converted all 10 free throws.

Wright had his first career double-double and hit four 3s.

Bucks 122, Pacers 101

In Milwaukee, Giannis An-

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Padres, Royals offer huge deals to Hosmer



AP
In this file photo, Kansas City Royals' Eric Hosmer makes the stop on a grounder by Cleveland Indians' Giovanny Urshela during a spring training baseball game in Surprise, Ariz.

As if the Padres and Royals weren't enough, there's a third team entering the arena. According to Jon Morosi of MLB Network, the St. Louis Cardi-

nals are interested in Hosmer as well.

Unlike the Padres or Royals, there are no reported or rumored numbers to go along with this interest. But if Hosmer wants to make them sweat, he could wait a little longer to see if some numbers materialize. Or if he already has the offer he wants, he could just end it all next week or tomorrow.



KANSAS—It's been the slowest of slow offseasons so far, but things could be picking up. On Tuesday and early Wednesday, USA Today reported that first baseman Eric Hosmer, currently a free agent, has two separate offers on the table. And they're both enormous.

Offer one comes from the San Diego Padres, who are reportedly offering Hosmer a seven-year, \$140 million contract to call Petco Park home. Not to be outdone, the Kansas City Royals

reportedly offered Hosmer a seven-year, \$147 million contract, which is a franchise record.

With the offers so close in price and identical in years, Hosmer's connection to the Royals might make this decision seem easy. Hosmer has spent his entire career with the Royals, and he won a World Series with them. But that doesn't necessarily mean that Hosmer wants to return. Free agency isn't just a chance for a player to get a big payday, it's his opportunity to choose where he wants

to play instead of being told. The nearly identical deals might just make this harder: with neither team offering significantly more money, the decision rests purely on Hosmer's preference.

If Hosmer signs either one of these deals, he would be just the second of Jeff Passan's Top 10 free agents to go off the board. Hosmer wouldn't be the first first baseman to sign a big deal this offseason, though. Carlos Santana (14th on Passan's list) signed a three-year, \$60 million con-

tract with the Phillies in December, which has only benefitted Hosmer. He's still the most talented first baseman on the open market, but every team that was interested in Hosmer had to use Santana's deal as a gauge. Now Hosmer's got two gigantic deals on the table that give him both money and some amount of security. (It's not known if either of these contracts would contain a no-trade clause, but with two teams vying for his talents there's no better time for him to ask for one.)

OL'ACES

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rales. The second frame started with Sun Palace ahead by only 6, 34-28, but the eventual winning team widened the gap when Morales dropped 20 more points in that period, including his squad's last 12 markers.

In the girls division, the GSM Ol'Aces is also unbeaten in three games following a 54-18 demolition of Shirley's Coffee Shop in the first game.

Alliyah Fernandez, Cassandra Camacho, and Eleina Santos teamed up in handling the GSM Ol'Aces the lopsided win as all three finished in twin digits. Fernandez had a game-high 18 point, while Camacho contributed 12, and

Santos added 10.

The trio combined for 20 in the first half—more than doubling the output of the entire Shirley's crew, to leave the GSM Ol'Aces with a commanding 24-8 advantage. Shirley's never made headway in the second half, allowing the GSM Ol'Aces to extend its streak.

In the other girls division match, CTSI outclassed IT&E, 50-43.

Mary Kay Alferos led CTSI with her 14 points and drew enough support from her teammates with Angie Ito scoring 10 and Madi Alegre and Channel Espinosa logging 8 apiece. Jeraldine Castillo had 13 points in another losing effort for IT&E.

BOYS DIVISION First Game

M&M Salas Ol'Aces 98 — Atan 24, Manalo 17, Siech 14, Kabiriel 10, Blake 8, Peter 7, Santos 7, Bondoc 6, Sacdalan 8.

Kanoa Resort 46 — El-lama 11, Deleon Guerrero 9, Muna 8, Yu 4, Kiser 2, Santos 2, Tenorio 2.

Scoring by halves: 60-35, 98-46.

Second Game

Sun Palace 66 — Morales 40, Factor 10, Dancoc 8, Tenorio 4, Kim 3, Santiago 2.

Saipan Vegas Elite 49 — Pangelinan 12, Ogasawara 12, Laxa 8, Deleon Guerrero 4, T. Quitugua 4, Elchico 4, N. Quitugua 2, Mungwaath 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-

28, 66-49.

GIRLS DIVISION First Game

GSM Ol'Aces 54 — Fernandez 18, Camacho 12, E. Santos 10, Pangelinan 6, A. Santos 4, Simran 2.

Shirley's 18 — Jeralyn Castillo 8, Santos 4, Ballesteros 2, Vargas 2, Surima 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-8, 54-18.

Second Game

CTSI 50 — Alferos 14, Ito 10, Espinosa 8, Alegre 8, Pablo 4, Watanabe 4.

IT&E 41 — Jeraldine Castillo 13, Hemley 8, Ocampo 6, Garon 5, Marasigan 4, Olivos 3, Jerlyn Castillo 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-19, 50-43.

Slam Development Fund.

After the Margaret Court Cup, which will run until Jan. 9, the touring squad will head to Victoria for next week's 2018 Victorian Junior Championships in Wodonga. After the completion of the two tournaments, the group will return to Melbourne to watch a couple of games in the Australian Open.

Messi wants Barca to sign 3 Man United stars



SPAIN—Barcelona are nearing a deal to sign Liverpool star Coutinho, just months on after failing to snap him up during the summer.

Yet the Catalan giants could still strengthen further despite flying high in La Liga and the Champions League.

And Spanish outlet Diario Gol say Messi wants Barcelona to sign three Manchester United players once their deal for Coutinho goes through.

The players in question are Ander Herrera, Daley Blind and Juan Mata.

All three players' contracts expire at the end of the season and renewals are yet to be put on the table.

Herrera could sign to provide competition for the likes of Sergio Busquets and Ander Herrera in the middle of the park.

Mata, meanwhile, could rotate with Coutinho and possibly replace Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta, who is weighing up his Nou Camp future.

Blind, however, is the signing Barcelona arguably needs the most. Messi supposedly thinks the Holland international would be the ideal replacement for Javier Mascherano. Mascherano could leave the Nou Camp for the Chinese Super League this month.

Blind, who is capable of playing in defense and midfield, could fill the void left by his departure. Diario Gol claim Messi also admires Mesut Ozil and Leon Goretzka. But both players could end up going elsewhere.

Express Sport understands Ozil is wanted as a replacement for Henrikh Mkhitaryan at United. Goretzka, meanwhile, is likely to join Bayern Munich.

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be recognized at the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet on Feb. 22 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The November winners were led by soccer players Sunjoon Tenorio and Paulyn Joyce, who were named NMSA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Month. Tenorio took the Golden Boot award in the boys U17 division of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Fall League after scoring the most goals (19) last season. The Marianas High School student also helped MP United win the division crown in the same league and the FA Challenge Cup and played for the Teen Ayuyus that finished runner-up in the M-League.

Joyce of Hopwood Middle School was also a Golden Boot awardee in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA youth league and had an important role in Kanoa Resort's title victory against five-time champion Shirley's FC.

Joining Joyce and Tenorio on the November honor roll was the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's girls team, which topped a series of local races.

For the December awardees, swimmer Nanaka Watanabe, tennis player Robbie Schorr, and weightlifter Angel San

Nicolas made the elite selection

San Nicolas was named Male Athlete of the Month after handing Team CNMI its lone medal in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu. He won a bronze medal in the clean and jerk (94-kilogram division) event of the weightlifting division and was also the flag bearer for the lean Commonwealth delegation to last month's quadrennial meet.

Watanabe and Schorr took the NMSA/TSL Foundation Student Athletes of the Month for their notable showings in local competitions.

Schorr of Saipan International School had a three-peat in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic after clinching the boys U18 singles and the men's open singles and doubles championships in Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's first tournament for the 2017-2018 season.

Watanabe, on the other hand, raced in the Tsunami Saipan Open and the Tanapag Middle School students broke a 16-year-old mark in the 11 to 12 age group. She timed in at 20:54.97 in the lung-busting 1,500m freestyle race, surpassing the record of Saipan Swim Club's Myana Welch, who clocked in at 21:10.55 on April 28, 2002.

SEAN

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mates Penina Kamu of Samoa and Zorika Morgan of the Solomon Islands will have to win their respective matches today to move to the main draw.

Kamu is paired against Ellen Maria Freyens, while Morgan will challenge Chloe

Dumaresq.

In the doubles, Kaga secured a spot to the main draw and will partner with Morgan. They will face Cameron Goss and Laura Peart in the opening match tomorrow, while Kamu is teaming up with Dumaresq in battling Freyens and Patsy Ryan-Betts in their first round game.

In the boys U14 doubles, Lee

will join forces with Maasi and they will collide against Sam Park and Dylan Hubert Vaughan.

Lee and company are also entered in the team event in the Margaret Court Cup, representing Pacific Oceania Touring Team. They were sent to Australia through the support of the Oceania Tennis Federation and the ITF Grand

36th Annual Christmas Island Relay

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services cadets line up as they run to the finish line of last Saturday's 36th Annual Christmas Island Relay at the Last Command Post in Marpi.



Saipan Swim Club members hold hands as they cross the finish line of the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio to the Last Command Post.



Agape Christian School runners slow down as they head to the finish line.



Three Saipan Paddling Club members are about to complete the race.



Max Simian gestures as he nears completion of the race.



Three runners representing one of the TRAC-sponsored teams smile as they are about to finish the run.



A group of runners celebrate at the finish line.



Kathy Ruszala, left, and Robyn Spaeth of Travis' Angels are joined by the latter's daughter, Lovel, on their way to the finish line.



**Saints defense
bracing for first
test vs Panthers'**
Olsen

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Curry's
triple lifts
Warriors over
Mavericks**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2018

Ol'Aces, Sun Palace share lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

M&M Salas Ol'Aces extended their streak to three after pounding Kanoa Resort, 98-46, in their boys division game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Sean, Conatsu start bid in Margaret Court Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior players Sean Lee and Conatsu Kaga will debut in the Margaret Court Cup today at the Albury Grasscourts in New South Wales, Australia.

Lee will be playing in the qualifier for the boys U14 main draw this afternoon and has a tough opponent in No. 9 seed Dylan White. A win against the Australian will move Lee one victory away from clinching a spot in the 32-player main draw. Only the remaining eight players after the qualifier will make it to the main draw. If Lee prevails in today's opener, his

may collide with fellow Pacific Oceania player Chris Maasi of Tonga. Maasi will

also compete today against Australia's Nick Kleeman and the winner in their duel will face No. 11 Cameron Lin for a Round 3 berth.

Kaga was also scheduled to see action the qualifier, but gained one of the eight berths on the 32-player main draw when she drew a bye in the qualification round. Other lucky qualifiers were Callison Row, Julia Weston, Abbey Colbourne, and Augustine Gapinski, while Kaga's Pacific Oceania team-

See SEAN on Page 30



The Ol'Aces were at it right at the opening buzzer to keep their perfect record and hand Kanoa Resort its first loss. With the easy victory, the Ol'Aces joined Sun Palace at the top of the team standings in the eight-squad field.

Aiferson Atan anchored the Ol'Aces' balance offense after scoring 24 points. He hit his target early, firing 13 points in the first half, which ended with the Ol'Aces way ahead, 60-35. His teammates backed him up and the Ol'Aces completed the blowout in the second half.

Jedial Manalo also finished in twin digits for the Ol'Aces with his 17 points, while N-Nes Siech and Kevin Kabiriel registered 14 and 10, respectively. Three more Ol'Aces players combined for 20 markers to rout Kanoa Resort.

Meanwhile, in last Wednesday's games results, Sun Palace also improved to a 3-0 record after whipping Saipan Vegas Elite, 66-49.

Christian Morales sizzled for 40 markers to power Sun Palace to a 17-point victory, while Angelo Factor and Dalton Dancoc chipped in 10 and 8, respectively.

Sun Palace pulled away in the second half, as Saipan Vegas Elite failed to contain Mo-

See OL'ACES on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
M&M Salas Ol'Aces' Fred Peter is left open for a point-blank shot during the closing seconds of their game against Kanoa Resort in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament yesterday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

5 athletes, 1 team complete NMSA's monthly awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Five athletes and one squad made it to the final list of Northern Marianas Sports Association's monthly awardees for 2017.

The association, during its meeting last night, selected the top performers for November and December to close out the roster of its awardees who will

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, seen here surrounded by Guam All-Stars defenders during the Marianas Cup 2017 held at the Guam Football Association National Training Center, was named NMSA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Month for November.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Conatsu Kaga returns a shot to sister Coume during their game in the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Conatsu and Sean Lee are in Australia and will play in the Margaret Court Cup today.